# Daily Report

# Latin America

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Monday
6 December 1993

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## Latin America

*FBIS-LAT-93-232* *6 December 1993*

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## Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela Finalize Trade Talks

*PA0512035193 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0216 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 4 Dec (NOTIMEX)—The Group of Three (G-3), comprising Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela, capped today over two years of negotiations on the final draft of a historic trade agreement that will open a market of 150 million Latin Americans. During an exclusive interview with NOTIMEX, Herminio Blanco, foreign trade under secretary, said that the G-3 free trade agreement "marks a new phase in Latin America's commercial relations."

The treaty, which will become effective during the first half of 1994, "is a ground breaker in the region," Blanco said, referring to the aperture of goods, services, intellectual property, and investments contained in the commercial pact. The round of negotiations that concluded the night of 4 December in Santa Fe de Bogota lasted three days longer than scheduled due to the discussion on the guidelines of origin [normas de origin], government purchases, and the terms of lifting tariffs.

The official explained that the negotiations on the automobile sector were the object of intense and prolonged work sessions, owing to Colombian fears of an aperture to Mexican industry, which is considered superior to that of Colombia's. The hurdle was overcome following a telephone conversation with Jaime Serrra Puche, the Mexican commerce and industrial development secretary, held with his Colombian and Venezuelan counterparts, Blanco revealed.

During the telephone conversation, the commercial representatives of the three nations agreed to meet next January to analyze the topic. During this meeting, the date in which the three presidents will sign the treaty will also be established. Meanwhile, the Mexican businessmen who participated in the negotiations agreed with Blanco in telling NOTIMEX that "this is a historic moment."

Everardo Sousa, the business coordinator of the agreement, said "the solid position" Mexico presented at the table of negotiations "will make it possible to abide by the agreements that our country has in its foreign trade policy." When the agreement becomes effective, Mexico will have access to a market of 50 million people.

## Cuba

### One Dead, Several Injured Trying To Reach Guantanamo

*FL0412194493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1819 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[Report by Reinaldo Santana]

[Text] On 2 December the Yankee propaganda and the obstacles the United States puts on Cuban immigrants who wish to get into the United States caused the death of one person, while three others suffered serious injuries. The four persons were trying to leave the country illegally. The incident occurred when the four persons walked into a mine field located in the area bordering the illegal U.S. Naval base on Guantanamo Bay. Several mines, planted to protect the integrity of our territory, exploded, killing one man and injuring three others. The dead man was 24-year-old Santiago Batista Tellez. He lived in Dos Caminos de San Luis, Santiago de Cuba. The injured persons are from Caimaneras. They are (Jos Vil Tilegas), (Irenia Vicente Reyes), and (Diosmayli Anderson Rodriguez). The injured youths were admitted to hospital and are being treated.

A few weeks ago, a border guard, Lieutenant (Hermes Brooks Chivaz), was injured and lost a leg when he tried to rescue several unpatriotic persons who had walked into a mine field. These people were attempting to leave the country illegally through the area that separates Caimaneras from the illegal U.S. base.

The obstacles placed by the U.S. Government on Cubans who are attempting to enter the country illegaly forces unpatriotic people to seek other ways of leaving the island, even through very dangerous areas like the border with the aforementioned Yankee military enclave, an area where the world's largest mine field is located. However, the unscrupulous U.S. propaganda does not get tired of encouraging these people to leave the country whichever way they can, although they know these unpatriotic people, children, and other innocent people can get killed while trying this.

### UN Ambassador Questions U.S. Human Rights Record

*PA0412141993 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[From the "Morning Information Review" newscast]

[Text] Cuba rejected at the United Nations some governments' attempts to use the issue of human rights for political reasons or as a way of meddling in the domestic affairs of other states.

Dr. Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, alternate Cuban representative to the United Nations, said that Cuba faithfully follows the dictums of fairness and equality and maintains a higher moral position than those countries that, forgetting their own history and current realities, try to be judges without having a right to act as such.

During a session of debates by the UN Third Committee, the Cuban diplomat noted that the United States is a country that tries to act as a champion of human rights while in their own territory great violations take place against minorities such as Indians, Afro-Americans, and Latin Americans.

The Cuban ambassador cited examples of European countries that question the human rights situation in Cuba while they themselves allow the existence and proliferation of extreme right-wing, racist, and discriminatory groups.

The Cuban diplomat pointed out that in the Czech Republic, the government enacted legislation that prohibits people of certain political persuasion to serve in public office. In the case of Hungary, Ambassador Rodriguez Parrilla said, the growing violence against Gypsies is alarming, also victims of the most merciless exploitation due to the economic measures implemented there.

### Fidel Castro Welcomes Cuban Athletes

*FL0512203193 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0151 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at ceremony to welcome the Cuban sports delegation that participated at the 17th Central American and Caribbean Games in Ponce, Puerto Rico, in Havana on 2 December—recorded]

[Text] Now it is my turn to say a few words.

Dear athletes and other members of the Cuban delegation to the 17th Central American and Caribbean Games. Can you hear me? I cannot hear myself. It must be the microphone.

Today we mark another anniversary of the Granma landing. Those were difficult times. We crossed rough seas, but we made it to the coast. You also crossed stormy waters recently, and you also faced difficult times. What relationship exists between the Granma and sports? What relationship exists between the sea and sports? Once before we threatened that we would reach the coast of Puerto Rico even if we had to swim it. As a colony of the empire they refused to issue us our visas to participate in the event. We had to [words indistinct] and reach the coast and say: You either give us permission to land, or we will swim ashore. They knew we would swim ashore so they gave us permission to enter the country. On this occasion they delayed the issuance of the visas, but finally the visas came and we were able to fly to Puerto Rico aboard our own airline. Once there it was not easy. We received much love from the people and witnessed the hard work done by the enemy. We believe this had been in planning for a long time. They worked hard and used all available means. They made offers, they pressured as hard as they could, and they used every connection they had to hamper our sports victory. They knew it would be a great victory. They were able to tempt certain people. And, indeed, a number of athletes did in fact allow themselves to be dazzled and allowed themselves to be bought off. They abandoned the delegation and abandoned their fatherland.

There were 24 athletes; the rest were a few commissioners [comisionados]. What could we expect to have happened when a commissioner is among those who sets the example? Thus, there were commissioners from two or three sports who deserted; and there were a few officials, a few referees, even a journalist, making a total of 35, as Conrado [Martinez Corona] was saying. And that hurt, of course. It was bitter, when one thinks of everything the country, the fatherland, has done for sports; what the nation, the fatherland, has done for the athletes, often from the time they are children, all the way back from the time they were in primary, or secondary school—with the special schools, the sports schools, with the preoccupation the nation has had for the athletes, giving almost all of them a university education, and even, for those who do not have a university education, the possibility of working as instructors, or trainers, inside or outside the country. But the truth is that these are not the things we think about, nor should it be a reason for you to be sad. The way some people act or the way they handle themselves should not shame you. The fatherland has greeted you. The fatherland can be fully proud of the awareness, dignity, and honor of our athletes. The fact that certain ones were disloyal does not take away from the fact that the immense majority, despite all the promises, offers, and enticements made in these very difficult times, had the dignity and sense of honor to be loyal and trustworthy to the fatherland. [applause]

Some of those athletes defected even before competing. Some had already decided to defect when they were competing. An example of this is the basketball equipment. The people were not happy when we lost by one point when we were playing Puerto Rico. The ball was in our court; we had more than enough time to take a couple of shots, easily. We saw that what was being done was not right. What happened was even worse. Everyone was astonished when, with 8 or 9 seconds remaining on the clock, enough time to make a basket and not give the adversary a chance to recover, the player did not pass the ball. All he did was slowly dribble around the court and when he did throw the ball, he did it without even bothering to think. Anyone with the least bit of knowledge of how basketball is played knows that this is not done. All he did was waste the few remaining seconds of the game. I believe someone threw the game. It just happens that the same man who had the ball and did not pass it defected that very night. This makes me think that he sold out. We also lost several medals because of this activity conducted by the enemy. Perhaps we would have received three or four more gold medals.

I was also informed of the case of the relay swimmer who defected. He defected before the meet. A younger swimmer took his place and we won the gold medal. We even set a new record. Despite all that the enemy was doing, and even though we lost some medals, they were not able to stop the avalanche of victories attained by our athletes. It is admirable that despite the special period, despite the fact that the USSR and socialist bloc has disappeared, in 1993 we won more medals than in 1990 in Mexico. In Mexico we won 322 medals. In Puerto Rico we won 364 medals. In Mexico we won 180 gold medals. In Puerto Rico we won 227 gold medals, 47 more than in Mexico. I believe that speaks highly of our country's and our athletes' dignity and spirit. I believe that speaks highly of what the Revolution has done for sports. Not even in these difficult times has sports been overlooked. The funds allocated to sports have not been cut back and we have not taken steps backward and renounced the extraordinary achievements we have made in this field.

Our enemies do not want others to know about the extraordinary feat accomplished by our athletes in Puerto Rico. Even though 32 countries—some of them with approximately 100 million inhabitants and with much more money than Cuba—participated in the Puerto Rico games, Cuba won 75 more gold medals than all the other participating countries put together. It is hard for others to believe that a country experiencing a blockade, a country under siege, a harassed country has taught all its children to read and write, has taken care of its people's health to the point that their lifespan is above 75 years, and has reduced the infant mortality rate to 10 [presumably per thousand]. Perhaps this year we will set a record and lower the infant mortality rate to less than 10, lower than in 1992. Unfortunately, this is not something that happens in the other countries. This is the example they want to destroy.

What kind of attention have those countries given to sports. This is reflected in the results of these competitions. These successes, these extraordinary successes, these incredible successes, have only been possible because of the attention given to sports, have only been possible because of the Revolution. Sports has brought much honor and glory to our country. Sports has given us examples that no one will ever be able to erase. Let them do what they may do, let them invent what they wish.

From where I am I can see [boxer] Comrade [Teofilo] Stevenson. We will never be able to forget that he was offered millions of dollars, but all the gold in the world was not enough to destroy Stevenson's firmness, dignity, and patriotism. [applause] From where we are we can also see our baseball players. They frequently travel around the world. They have been offered lots of money. Some of our players have been offered millions of dollars and they, like Stevenson, could not be bought by all the gold in the world. For example, how much did they offer Linares [not further identified]? How much did they offer [name indistinct], Pacheco, and many others? We would have to mention many others. If you are a professional in certain sports you can make alot of money.

We also have our female athletes. The female volleyball team just won first place in the world. We have the moving example, the example that made millions of Cubans cry, of Ana Fidelia Quiroz. She demonstrated a supreme will and an unsurmountable tenacity. She participated in that meet despite the fact that her scars had not yet healed. The scaring process still hinders her running ability. It was one of the most impressive feats we have seen in our lives. We saw her run to win the silver medal for track, and the gold for courage and heroism. [applause]

Comrades, this is why I say that far from being sad we should be happy. We must be happy because in sports, as in improving our people's health and in fulfilling our internationalist duties, we have enough honor, dignity, and shame [as heard] to share with the whole world. Our athletes are, and will always be an example. What we must do now is prepare for the next competition. We will continue to put forth our best efforts.

But not just the state is making an effort. The athletes are also making an effort toward, as Conrado put it, self-financing. Sports no longer needs foreign currency to attend meets abroad, to travel for training purpose, and other expenses they must pay for in foreign currency. Sports, if not yet self-financing, is very close to being self-financing. I am talking about convertible currency. Naturally, in domestic currency, the country invests heavy sums into sports. The country invests heavily in equipment, installations, electricity, services, food. But when it comes to financing themselves abroad, our sports are self-financing. This is possible because of the efforts put forth by our trainers and athletes.

I will give you an example. There are hundreds of trainers who are working abroad and who contribute to the self-financing of sports. In how many countries? In some 40 countries. We have more than 400 trainers in approximately 40 countries. We have enough trainers to inundate the world. Yes we do. We have physical education professors and sports trainers working abroad. They have been successful wherever they have gone. We can see this at the international meets. We must not forget the Irish athlete who beat us to the gold medal at the Olympics. His trainer was Cuban. He was doing his duty and fighting for his athlete. That is the duty of every trainer, even though he feels differently inside. His first duty is to his athlete. We saw him do this, felt good about it, and admired him for doing his duty. However, there are also meets where our trainers help train our rivals. We are not going to send Zagarra [not further identified] to train others in other countries. [laughter] (?I joke with him) about this every time I see him. Right?

At these games it was proven that the countries that have Cuban trainers have improved. Now we have a triple challenge, a double challenge to confront. We must redouble our effort as compared to other countries and as compared to our trainers who train our adversaries. Despite all this, we continue to win more medals each time we compete.

Since I have already mentioned some ways in which sports contributes to the country, I will mention one more. The female volleyball team earned $400,000 with its victory at the international meet. The female team is contributing $400,000 to the sports sector. The male volleyball team came in third and is contributing $100,000 to the sports sectors. I do not have the exact figures, but the amounts won in those two events have practically covered the expenses of the delegation that went to Puerto Rico.

We have an admirable example. Sotomayor [not further identified] received an award in a European country, in Spain. He received $40,000 in prize money and he gave the $40,000 to the sports sector. That is the kind of people we have. He also received a super car [preceding words in English], designed especially for Sotomayor. They probably did it because of his height. He was willing to trade it in as well but was not able to do so because the factory conditions the prize by having the winner use it for a certain length of time. So if you see Sotomayor in a good looking car do not think he has changed or that someone bribed Sotomayor. He simply cannot trade it in.

In Sotomayor's case, the National Institute for Sports [INDER] set aside some of the money to cover Sotomayor's family expenses. The INDER also set aside some of the money that the male and female volleyball teams won for their family expenses. This was done in recognition for what they are doing for sports. Some of you contributed some money after yesterday's game. Well, we will have to remember you as well. It was not much, but it was something; it was your grain of sand to the sports sector. It is a pity you did not win the gold medal, but that is alright, we understand. We imagine how the others must feel when we do what they did to us yesterday—a homer [Castro chuckles] in the last inning and leaving the other team out on the field. We are so accustomed to winning that it hurts when we lose a game like the one we lost yesterday. However, we knew that we could win that game. We had practically won it, but luck was not on our side. That bunting attempt by, who was it, Prada [not further identified] or German [not further identified] was perfect. Victor Mesa could taste victory. He had almost reached home when he was sent back to third base. The ball had decided to go in another direction. [Castro chuckles] It would have been a tremendous win. We have shown everyone that we can play against that team and win.

I believe special recognition must be given the people of Puerto Rico because of the love shown our delegation even though we were competing against them on several ocsasions. During the boxing finals, we had to compete against five, yes I think it was five, Puerto Ricans. I kept thinking. Our relations with the Puerto Rican people are going to be affected. [Words indistinct] contradiction of seeing that generous and caring people applauding our delegation. No other delegation received such a warm applause. Of course, the television did not show too much of that. It was too bitter a pill to swallow for those who did not want the Cuban delegation to get such a warm welcome from the Puerto Rican people. You could sense the people's feelings during the various events. It was something tremendous.

I believe sports helps nourish the Puerto Rican people's patriotic spirit. For many years now the empire has been trying to put an end to that country's culture and even language. This has been going on for approximately 100 years; however, it has been unable to destroy the culture and patriotic feelings of the Puerto Rican people. As Conrado said, Puerto Rico has, throughout history, been linked to Cuba. Our flags are quite similar. We are happy when Puerto Rico is successful. I remember a couple of occasions when they beat us playing ball. The only times we did not get very upset was when the Puerto Rican team

beat us. That is because of that special feeling of solidarity and caring we have toward the Puerto Rican people. On a day like today we must thank them for all they did. They are not to blame for some of the trashy things that went on during the games, the actions of the bribed people, or the power that the enemies of Cuba have in that territory occupied by the empire. They are not to blame for that small plane that was flying around carrying signs. The Puerto Rican people are not to blame for those things, so we cannot hold a grudge against them. I am told that they have invited you to return to Puerto Rico. You can go there or they can come here. We would love to see a game played here as well if they want to come.

I also want to express our appreciation to the press because they relayed the games efficiently and made us experience all together, with the information they provided, all the emotion of the competitions. Everyone here kept an eye on what was happening in Puerto Rico. There were many broadcasts of many events on television, radio, and also there was news in the papers. The population was very well informed on everything. Therefore, our people very much enjoyed these Central American and Caribbean Games, almost to the degree as if they were the Olympic Games. In a certain sense, the Olympics were held there, the Olympics of dignity, honor, and patriotism in which you earned the gold medal. [applause]

We must recognize the efforts made by the trainers, doctors, and masseurs. I can see here a doctor that does not miss a single competition. Comrade Alvarez Cambra does not miss a single competition. You were there, were you not? Dr. Alvarez Cambra, did you get offers? [laughter] We wish to thank all those who in one way or another contributed to this success and to the great victory achieved during these games.

I do not want to make this ceremony too long. However, I do wish to tell you that the workers at the [word indistinct] organized a reception for you. They were told that athletes have a very big appetite. [laughter] The reception will be a modest one, in keeping with our times. However, I do not think you will go hungry. I was told there would be lots of rice and beans. [laughter] It may be bothersome, but it is a way for them to show their admiration, love, and respect. You have been greeted with [word indistinct] and we all celebrate the great victory you achieved in Puerto Rico.

Socialism or death; fatherland or death; we will win! [applause]

## Castro Attends Inauguration of Vaccine Factory

*FL0412032893 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[Text] The Finlay Institute's new vaccine factory has been inaugurated at a ceremony at the Convention Center in our capital that was attended by our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. The ceremony also served to commemorate the 160th anniversary of the birth of the Cuban scientist [Finlay], and Latin American Medicine Day as well.

In homage to the man who brought such honor on Cuban science, a representative group of our most prestigious researchers and health professionals gathered at the Convention Center to inaugurate the Finlay Institute's new vaccine plant, which along with the other three in operation, have a productive potential that will guarantee the nation's self-sufficiency in vaccines and the necessary industrial capacity for exportable production. The new plant is the nation's biggest and most modern among those producing biological products and injections, and marks the coming of age of our investment system, in the matter of plants of this type.

The development reached by the Cuban health sphere and biological medicine is the best homage to one of the greatest microbiologists of all times. He was able to face up to economic shortages, lack of understanding, and even an attempt to discredit his scientific merits.

The 160th anniversary of Finlay's birth, 3 December, the inauguration of the new vaccine factory that is honored to bear his name [represents] health that is being increased in Cuba and beyond the confines of this island.

### Gives Speech

*FL0512212193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[Text] During his speech at the official inauguration of the Finlay Institute Vaccine Factory, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro expressed his trust in the factory's product quality. Regarding the scientific and product development, Fidel said:

[Begin Castro recording] [Word indistinct] mentioned the idea that in this development science and production go hand in hand. The factories are located near the research centers. Near the factories, or rather, the factories are built near the research centers. We first build the research centers and then the factories. Thus, we maintain a constant and systematic relationship between research and production. This is an idea we have studied and we are implementing it at as many research centers as possible. The idea is working well.

We have put forth our efforts and resources to this task. Medicine and research have not been ignored during this special period we are experiencing because, in addition to the human benefits this research represents for our health—and these investigations may also represent much for the rest of the world—it also represents a probable source of economic rewards for the country, rewards which we truly need. This field will, in the future, probably become one of the most important economic fields in our country. [end recording]

Fidel said that the number of children who die each year of diseases that can be avoided through vaccination is amazing. He added that only vaccination has strongly reduced the infant mortality rate that many countries experience.

In another part of his speech, the commander in chief said:

[Begin Castro recording] I believe we are doing well in this field. I believe that we have accumulated a huge potential in the vaccine field. We are working on several vaccines. Nothing has been said about the fact that we are also working on, or trying to contribute something to a vaccine against AIDS. This is one of the worst plagues we are experiencing. It is a threat that grows. It is a danger that grows each day. Some of the data received from certain areas of the world are truly hair-raising. The fact that there are countries where 30 percent of the population is infected by the virus—just imagine a country where 30 percent of the people are infected—makes treatment and prevention of this disease very important. All the measures adopted to date have yielded marginal results. It is not stopped [words indistinct] very special measures applied in our country. We began fighting against AIDS when there were only a few cases diagnosed. Perhaps we are the one country in the world where the AIDS epidemic has not had such a rapid development. [end recording]

Fidel thanked foreign scientists for their presence at the event. He very especially thanked (Charles Meiroud), founder of the (Pasteur-Meiroud Institute), tops in the world in the (?production) of serums and vaccines.

## Castro Chairs Construction Workers Day Ceremony

*FL0612002593 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, chaired the national ceremony on the occasion of Construction Workers Day, 4 December. The activity was held at the Carlos J. Finlay Institute vaccine plant in Havana. This center was inaugurated on 3 December as a gift from the construction workers in Havana City to health care workers throughout the country.

Fidel awarded workers of the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry, and the Union of Caribbean Construction Enterprises in Havana a flag for having been the best in setting an example to other construction workers.

Labor union representatives from Spain and Peru also were present at the ceremony. The Spanish union representatives donated cement and shingles to the Cuban people to repair the damage caused by the storm of the century.

In his closing remarks, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro highlighted the efforts made by the construction workers to conclude prioritized projects despite the special period. Fidel went on to congratulate construction workers throughout the country for their dedication in the completion of important projects. Fidel pointed out that it is a great challenge to build in the midst of a special period and that, in face of the adversities, every project that is completed and is put into operation is an achievement.

[Begin Castro recording] Above all, the quality of the work is important. This is a basic element. The completion of these projects and putting them into operation....[pauses] because it is in the special period when we lack so many of these materials including fuel. It is very important to use these resources efficiently. The most efficient way the country can use those resources is by building prioritized projects, for one reason or for another, but, above all, they are a priority because of their economic contributions. Efforts in the construction industry must have an economic standpoint because they will help us overcome the special period. [end recording]

Fidel also pointed out that efforts must be made to continue building with speed and efficiency.

[Begin Castro recording] Therefore, the importance and outlook of this sector can be seen. What we do to overcome this situation depends heavily on what this sector does. All of you are making a great effort. It can be seen. But we must do even more. I am not going to say it should be a physical effort, because there have been times when projects have been stopped because of a lack of materials. We must make an effort to increase the quality of the coordination between the construction materials industry and the construction industry. Such coordination is vital to prevent a project from being stopped because of a lack of materials.

Well, I think I have mentioned the important things, as briefly as possible, clearing up some ideas. Lezcano [Politburo member Jorge Lezcano Perez] made some suggestions for 1994, which I believe are very good and which agree with these things I have mentioned. Therefore, comrades, I add my congratulations to those you have already received. I warmly congratulate you for the efforts throughout the year, efforts which have been in deeds and not only in words. That is what truly matters. Work with all your energy and have trust in yourselves and your morale. [end recording]

## Castro Greets New Veterans Association

*FL0612004893 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro today sent a message to the National Founding Conference of the Cuban Veterans Association which is in session at this very moment. The meeting is being held at the Revolutionary Armed Forces Universal Hall, and it is being presided over by Army General Raul Castro.

This association is being born when it had to be born, when a whole fighting country carries forth the Revolution, the message states. Castro continues to warn: The association is born not in times of bonanza but rather in times when difficulties and hardships are so big that the lazy and privilege hunters run for the sea like rats.

## Raul Castro Gives Speech

*FL0612025693 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Dec 93*

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Army General Raul Castro have attended the National Founding Conference of the Cuban Veterans Association.

[Begin Raul Castro recording, in progress] ...it is in accordance with the struggle of the Revolution in all the fronts and tasks. Members of the association standout for being the first and for encouraging the rest of the people with their example.

Every combatant of the Cuban Revolution must be an outstanding worker at his work center; an active member of his Committees for the Defense of the Revolution and his Rapid Response Detachment; an enthusiastic voluntary worker according to his possibilities and age—from the 20 year old all the way up to an 80-year-old member. He must be a worthy resident of his community, an exemple for his or her family as well as an example in educating his children. He must also be [word instinct] among the most punctual in the tasks of the armed defense of the fatherland and in the Unified Vigilance and Protection System. He must standout wherever he or she lives and works, wherever he or she may be, be it the back of the bus or the [word indistinct], in the theater or at the park. He should be a staunch and energetic defender of the Revolution, capable of clarifying something the confused citizen does not understand, and he must boldly confront the counterrevolutionary detractor. [end recording]

More than 300,000 Cubans, three generations of Cubans, are part of the Veterans Association of the Cuban Revolution. As part of the conference's central report, delegates analyzed our people's tradition of struggle and justice throughout history, the ample political movement that preceded this founding process, and the objectives for which the association was created. Some of the main objectives mentioned were: honoring Cuba's historic legacy and enriching it in hopes of educating the younger generations; and participating in the preparation of the 100th anniversary of the 1895 struggle.

This conference was charged with emotions when old fighting comrades, from the combatants of the Moncada attack to those who unconditionally defend our fatherland and revolution today, came together. A very significant moment was when Commander in Chief Fidel Castro joined the plenary session. Representatives of the association's base organizations presented Fidel and Raul with marks of recognition for their revolutionary merits throughout the years. Prior to this, Politburo member Jose Ramon Balaguer read a message from Fidel sent to all the members of the Veterans Association. He pointed out that for the first time in our history three generations of revolutionaries have joined to recall, reaffirm, and fight. Castro's message also stated that the Association was born when difficulties and hardships are very big.

The delegates to the national conference declared Commander in Chief Fidel Castro honorary president of the Association.

### Roundup of Politburo Members' Activities

*FL0612133593*

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on the activities of members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 2 and 5 December.

Raul Castro, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, sent greetings to the members of Military Unit 1973 of Baragua, Santiago de Cuba Province, during the political ceremony and military parade the unit held on the 37th anniversary of the landing of Granma and the 30th anniversary of the beginning of the Communist Party of Cuba within the Cuban Armed Forces.

Esteban Lazo and Central Committee members Jorge Risquet and Division General Ramon Espinosa, head of the Eastern Army, presented awards and promotions at the same ceremony. (Radio Reloj 2032 GMT 2 Dec)

Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, Pedro Ross, Maria de los Angeles Garcia, and Jose Ramon Balaguer are attending the Seventh Congress of the Health Workers Union under way in Santiago de Cuba, where Ramon Crespo Almeira has been reelected secretary general of the National Health Workers Union. (Radio Reloj 2056 GMT 2 Dec)

Julian Rizo Alvarez, on the 37th anniversary of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, awarded banners to the cane-cutter batallions that make up the Tato Rodriguez Vedo division in Camaguey Municipality, Camaguey Province. (Radio Reloj 2058 GMT 2 Dec)

Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, chief of the General Staff of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, presided over the event marking the 37th anniversary of the Revolutionary Armed Forces in Havana Province. (Radio Rebelde 1800 GMT 2 Dec)

Carlos Lage Davila and Jose Ramon Machado Ventura toured the areas most affected by recent floods in Guantanamo Province on 2 December. (Radio Rebelde 0000 GMT 3 Dec)

Pedro Ross Leal will inspect the flooded region on 3 December. (Radio Rebelde 0000 GMT 3 Dec)

Ulises Rosales del Toro participated, with approximately 1,000 members of the Armed Forces, in voluntary agrarian work at the Habana Libre Mill in observance of the 37th anniversary of the Armed Forces. (Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks 0100 GMT 3 Dec)

Jorge Lezcano inaugurated the surgical unit at the (Freddy Andrade Hospital) in Havana. (Radio Reloj 2030 GMT 3 Dec)

Pedro Ross Leal visited Guantanamo recently, accompanied by a group of French labor union leaders. During the visit Ross said that the Cuban Workers Federation donated $20,000 to help cover reconstruction costs for 800 houses affected by the recent rains. (Radio Rebelde 1800 GMT 4 Dec)

Nelson Torres visited the America Libre Sugar Mill in Matanzas where he inspected the repairs of the milling system. Workers told him that the work will be completed by harvest time. (Radio Rebelde 1800 GMT 4 Dec)

Pedro Ross Leal met with Portuguese labor union leader (Manuel Carballo da Silva). (Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks 1700 GMT 5 Dec)

Ulises Rosales del Toro was present at defense exercises carried out by Union of Young Communists members in Havana City. (Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks 0100 GMT 5 Dec)

### FAR Anniversary Ceremony Held in Baragua

*FL0312153493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Report by Margarita Pecora from Santiago de Cuba—live]

[Text] Today was a very important day for all the members and communists of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR]. FAR Minister Army General Raul Castro sent a special greeting to the Unit 1973 combatants. The greeting resounded throughout the Baragua plains, site of the political event and military parade marking the 37th anniversary of the Granma landing and 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] within the FAR. During the closing ceremony, Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Central Committee and the man who established the first nuclei of communists in the eastern sector of the country, recalled the hard work conducted 30 years ago to establish the first detachments of Unit 1370, today part of the Division 50 which has been described as the Eastern Army's iron fist.

During the political event and military parade presided over by Juan Esteban Lazo, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the PCC and first secretary of the Santiago de Cuba Provincial Committee, and Division General Ramon Espinosa Martin, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of the Eastern Army, several officers were promoted and members of the PCC and Union of Young Communists [UJC] received their identification cards. Likewise, the UJC honor flag was awarded to the Technical Command Battalion.

Brigadier General Manuel Perez Hernandez, founder of the Communist Party within the FAR, also spoke during the event. Greetings also were received from political and people's organizations throughout the area.

### DPRK Sends Greetings

*FL0312180293 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Marshal O Chin-u, minister of the DPRK People's Armed Forces, has sent a message of greetings to Army General Raul Castro, minister of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, on the occasion of the 37th anniversary of that armed corps. The message, reported today by the DPRK media, expresses the conviction that the friendly and cooperative relations between the armies of the two countries will continue to develop in the future.

### Embassy in China Celebrates

*FL0412000793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] High-ranking Chinese Army officers attended a reception given by the Cuban Embassy in Beijing on the occasion of Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] Day. Among those attending the reception was Lieutenant General Liu Mingpu, deputy director of the General Logistics Department of the People's Liberation Army. Lt. Gen. Liu Mingpu talked about the importance of Chinese President Jiang Zemin's recent visit to Havana, adding that this marked the beginning of a new phase in the reciprocal relations between Cuba and the PRC.

### Rosales del Toro Presides Over UJC Meetings

*FL0412000693 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1916 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] The Union of Young Communists' [UJC] debate meetings on defense began at the Botanical Gardens in Cienfuegos with the reading of a message sent by Army General Raul Castro, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR]. The message sent by the second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] reiterates his trust that the more than 200 delegates from the three branches will know how to broach important aspects of military life. The debate meetings organized by the UJC with headquarters in Cienfuegos is presided over by Politburo member Ulises Rosales del Toro, FAR first vice minister and chief of General Staff Division General. The topics to be discussed during this UJC debate meeting, held in accordance with the guidelines established in the sixth congress, include recruitment, preparing for defense, and internationalist patriotic and political education.

### General Lopez Views Discussion

*FL0312152993 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Interview with Brigadier General Nestor Lopez Cuba, head of the Political Directorate of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, by Marta Fernandez in Cienfuegos on 2 December—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] [Fernandez] During a visit to Cienfuegos Province, where the Union of Young Communists [UJC] national discussion gathering on the subject of defense is under way, Brigadier General Nestor Lopez Cuba, head of the Political Directorate of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] spoke out on what the FAR expects from this event.

[Begin Recording] [Lopez] Well, look, the subjects that are going to be discussed are all very important of course—military service, defense—and there is no doubt that we have been effecting military service satisfactorily, including recruitment, preparation prior to recruitment, reception in the units, and soldiers' return to their block organizations when they finish their military service.

Now, we do think that the role of youth in defense should be an overriding consideration at this discussion—in the first place because it is undoubtedly difficult to mobilize the population on Sundays, given the difficulties the country is facing in the special period; and although the population has not lost its enthusiasm and people do continue to attend Defense Sundays, nevertheless we must improve the quality. Both quantity and quality must be improved. And it seems to us that the youth must play a decisive role in this important task, because we are, in fact, concerned that sometimes, on Defense Sundays, we see more adults and elderly than we do young people. And we simply must win that big battle. We think that this needs to be the main topic of this discussion.

[Fernandez] General, how did you feel today during the tour you made of the different areas where the delegates to this discussion on defense did a day of voluntary labor on the civil defense tunnels and the food program, precisely on this 37th anniversary of the landing of the yacht Granma and FAR Day?

[Lopez] As they were talking there today about fighters from the Sierra Maestra and from the clandestine struggle, and from Giron, I felt I was a part of all those categories that you are mentioning, which also are being mentioned among the youth. I mean, there is no doubt that...[pauses] I was saying recently in an interview in the program Open Agenda that we have a privilege the Mambis did not have. This privilege can be explained by the fact that after the Mambis achieved the independence of Cuba, they managed to get the rest of the revolutionaries to join in and were able to later fuse into an organization called Veterans of Independence. But the Veterans Association is not such an organization. The association has three generations of fighters in it.

The association is made up of fighters from the fifties, sixties, and seventies. After the seventies came the participation of our internationalists in Ethiopia and Angola. I believe that the continuity achieved is extraordinary. Those of us who led our youth in their internationalist missions were the same who fought in the Sierra Maestra and Giron. Because of its importance, we should mention that old men like me and today's youth are all together in the same trenches, the same organization, and that we are all filled with the same determination to defend the Revolution, the achievements of socialism. [end recording]

### Rosales del Toro Closes Debate

*FL0512230193 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[Text] The high professional capacity attained in the defense of the Revolution was stressed by Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, chief of FAR General Staff, during the closing session of the Union of Young Communists [UJC] sixth debate on defense held in Cienfuegos.

### Allende Signs Cultural Agreement With Russia

*FL0412000593 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2036 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Russia and Cuba reiterated their interest in maintaining the traditional cultural ties with the signing of an extensive agreement for cultural exchange throughout the year 1995. The document, signed by Vice Foreign Ministers Georgiy Mamedov and Isabel Allende in Moscow, includes a commitment from both sides to strengthen the reciprocal presence of artists in events and contests held in the capitals of the two countries.

According to the agreement, Russia will send delegations to the Havana festivals of ballet and theater and the international contests of guitar and the literary arts, among other events held annually in Cuba. On the other hand, Cuba will participate in the Tchaikovsky International Voice and Piano Festival, and Moscow's ballet contest, as well as in the festival of light music called the "Melody of Friends."

### First Cuban Ambassador Arrives in Colombia

*FL0312153293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Jesus Martinez, the first Cuban ambassador to Colombia following the recent reestablishment of diplomatic ties between both countries, arrived in Bogota on 2 December to occupy his post. Martinez will present his credentials to President Cesar Gaviria, and his first task will be to prepare the ground for the forthcoming visit to Colombia by Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina.

### Journalist Leader Supports News Media 'Opening'

*PA0412135293 Mexico NOTIMEX in Spanish 2133 GMT 2 Dec 93*

[Report by Francisco Ramirez]

[Text] Havana, 2 Dec (NOTIMEX)—The Cuban media are planning to reform within a model that will allow an upgrading and opening of information, but without making room for news media hostile to the Cuban Government. Julio Garcia Luis, president of the Union of Cuban Journalists (UPEC), said his organization is working to upgrade and expand information, without which one cannot talk of developing socialist democracy.

In an interview for NOTIMEX, Garcia Luis felt it was biased to say Cuban newsmen lack the freedom to create and affirmed "this is potentially greater than the freedom your colleagues and other countries" have. Nevertheless, he acknowledged that limitations exist, as "it would be unreal to try to ignore how the current situation of harassment, crisis, and economic blockade conditions exercising of those freedoms."

When asked about the bureaucratic and authoritarian manner in which some officials treat journalists, he admitted that in Cuba the news media's relations with the sources of news are often an area of friction, but—in his

opinion—the two "are in the same boat." He denied "the entire Cuban press is dull and overconfident" as some local journalists and foreign visitors have stated and insisted the people have a high level of information despite the dramatic reduction in the number of editions of the dailies.

Referring to the complaints about the delaying or withholding of news the government regards as "delicate," the UPEC leader explained Cuba is a small country harassed by a propaganda war by powerful enemies. He admitted that under these conditions there are instances of "schematism, insufficiencies, and errors" that erode the credibility of the government, as different analysts have stated. The Cuban press has been hard hit by the country's economic crisis that affects the energy sectors and the paper industry.

Garcia Luis is chairing the Organizing Committee for the Sixth UPEC Congress which has already held provincial assembly meetings to prepare for the plenary meeting to be held on 23 December and which will approve several resolutions, its statutes, and the Professional Ethics Code. The UPEC leader, who has occupied that post since 1986, said his group will defend the journalists' full access to information, which is regarded as a property of society, without limitations other than those imposed by the law and ethics.

Garcia Luis, a history professor and former member of the editorial board of GRANMA, the mouthpiece of the Communist Party of Cuba, indicated the local press does not propose to compete with Radio Marti, which he accused of being counterrevolutionary. The information by that radio station broadcast from Miami and supported by U.S. federal funds does not reach broad sectors of the population, he said but admitted that when it does "it certainly constitutes a setback."

He endorsed opening room in the official news media to the plural points of view by citizens who support "justice, sovereignty, and development" in the country but rejected similar treatment to those whom he described as counterrevolutionaries and representatives of the U.S. policy against Cuba. Garcia Luis said UPEC does not expect greater reductions in the jobs of journalists due to the planned revamping of the state apparatus, with which the government seeks to strengthen its internal finances and lower the country's budget deficit, estimated at over $5 billion.

The Cuban press does not plan to become associated with foreign capital to gain vitality although it does plan to promote through different means its self-financing in local currency and in freely exchangeable currency to overcome its current crisis.

## Crisis Forces Media To Make 'Dramatic' Cuts

*PA0512032093 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0951 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Havana, 3 Dec (NOTIMEX)—According to information obtained by NOTIMEX, the Cuban media have found themselves forced to make "dramatic" cuts due to the economic crisis the country is enduring.

Concerning the printed media, the overall decrease in editions during the past three years amounts to 80 percent of what used to be printed before paper and other supplies stopped arriving from the dissolved European socialist bloc and the Soviet Union.

Available information indicates that the annual consumption of paper has dropped from 24,250 metric tons to 6,090 metric tons. This information has been made known prior to the final session of the Sixth Congress of the Union of Cuban Journalists [UPEC].

Up to 1989 the official Cuban media structure was composed of GRANMA, the official organ of the Communist Party of Cuba (with a daily circulation of 700,000); JUVENTUD REBELDE, (300,000); TRABAJADORES (180,000); and BASTION, of the Armed Forces (80,000).

Now, only a four-page tabloid sized GRANMA, without its formerly normal red print, remains as a nationwide daily, with a circulation of 400,000 from Tuesday to Saturday.

JUVENTUD REBELDE, the youth party publication, became a Sunday weekly with 250,000 copies, a number similar to that of TRABAJADORES, the publication of progovernment unions, which comes out on Mondays.

According to sources from UPEC, which has 3,410 members, the 15 newspapers that are published in the provinces went from 500,000 copies each day to a total of 650,000, although they only come out weekly.

The longstanding weekly magazine BOHEMIA cut its 300,000 copies in half, comes out twice a month, and cut its size by several inches. The other 584 publications also cut their size by some 20 inches, dropped the number of copies printed, and come out irregularly.

Because of this situation, some 200 professionals were relocated in other official media, mainly radio and television stations, although some professionals went to work for GRANMA.

UPEC President Julio Garcia Luis has said that no colleagues were left jobless. Only a few members who worked for press offices at government organizations are unemployed but still get 60 percent of their salaries, which range between 231 and 310 pesos.

Garcia Luis has told NOTIMEX that an association with foreign capital to invigorate the local media has not been contemplated; instead, plans are being made to promote several methods of self-financing in national and convertible currencies.

Garcia Luis believes that it is difficult for the financial situation of the Cuban media to worsen further and stated that: "Future trends must point to its gradual recovery."

In light of fuel shortages and power outages, television programs were cut 35 percent; radio stations reduced their hours; and movie newsreels were suspended due to a lack of film material.

## Commentary Views U.S.-Central American Relations

*PA0312161293 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Dec 93*

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The word is that the meeting of Central American presidents with the U.S. President may symbolize the opening of an era of good neighborliness following considerable friction between some of those countries and their powerful northern neighbor. There can be no doubt that there is expectation about the eventual improvement of relations clouded by certain matters such as expropriations from American citizens, the extradition of drug traffickers, and Washington's demands for legislation on intellectual property.

The United States is Central America's primary market because this region conducts over 50 percent of its foreign trade with its northern neighbor. However, the isthmus has also been punished with a drastic reduction of U.S. aid during the past decade. Most analysts agree that Central America is no longer a priority for the United States, whose interests now lie in other areas such as Eastern Europe.

Considering that the Central American countries are currently receiving $9 billion less than they received from past U.S. Administrations, when the region was rocked by political-military conflicts, this is a good time to quote Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus, who said the Central America of peace is not receiving the same attention given to the Central America of war.

Nevertheless, the Central American presidents are still hopeful that with the approval of the free trade agreement with Mexico and Canada, the United States will attempt to establish economic rapprochement with the region. However, certain issues must be ironed out before this happens. Some of these issues are quite difficult, such as the year-long conflict between Costa Rican and U.S. authorities. The rift has not been free of U.S. threats of economic sanctions against the Costa Rican Government for the expropriations conducted against U.S. citizens. The tone of this conflict rose dangerously when U.S. unions recently accused the Costa Rican Government of violating labor laws.

Although the White House has recently made strong demands for the observation of human rights in El Salvador and Guatemala, we must still remember that past U.S. Administrations encouraged precisely the same violations by every means within their reach. There can be no doubt that pressure to that effect on those two countries has their governments concerned and unhappy, and although they are seemingly [words indistinct] it is not easy to rid both countries of groups which for a number of years perpetrated all sorts of crimes, sheltered by regimes the U.S. Government looked upon favorably.

Another source of friction has been the U.S. complaint of increased drug trafficking and money laundering in Panama. The Panamanian Government says the problem is caused by the large amount of drugs consumed by the U.S. market. The Costa Rican president said recently that all of the Central American countries have tolerated the prepotency of American officials and many people are now wondering if, to improve bilateral relations, the presidents will be willing to ignore the offenses and dispassionately examine with their northern neighbor the many issues that are sources of worry for their nations.

## Reconciliation With Emigres Discussed

*FL0412003093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Dec 93*

["Straight Talk" program with host Carlos Santana Ojeda and guest Luis Sesto from BOHEMIA magazine—live or recorded]

[Text] [Santana] Ever growing contacts between Cuban Government representatives and segments of the Cuba community in the United States have raised great interest and above all many questions among those who follow closely the changes being experienced by the Cuban revolutionary process. Dialogue and Reconciliation—this is our subject.

Why reconciliation? Why speak now of reconciliation?

[Sesto] Well, the word reconciliation is in vogue on the mouths of certain sectors we could call enemy sectors, within Cuba and abroad. When we speak of the term reconciliation, the first thing we have to do in this case is to ask ourselves: reconciliation with whom and for what?

If we do a brief semantic analysis of the term reconciliation, one realizes that it comes from conciliate and in Spanish it means to make concord, to put in agreement. In other words, reconciliation has to do with making this or that person, or this and that institution, or this issue or the other agree.

I ask myself: Is reconciliation necessary in Cuba?

Let me tell you that abroad some have taken the liberty of telling Cuba to reconcile. Once again: With whom? Can we say that we can reconcile Cuba with those who from abroad who threaten and harass Cuba? Those who want Cuba to go back in time?

Can we, for example, reconcile Cuba with Mr. [Andres] Nazario Sargen who has threatened to kidnap and murder people visiting Cuba? Can Cuba reconcile with Nazario Sargen? Furthermore, did Cuba ever harass or threaten Nazario Sargen or is it the other way around? Was it not Nazario Sargen who became an enemy of Cuba? In this case, it is up to those people to reconcile with Cuba.

This on one hand. Now, on the other: What would we resolve with reconciliation? To reconcile means more or less to discuss in order to reach an agreement, to share formulas and interests. I believe this will never be Cuba's position, nor do I believe any Cuban could accept such thing. For example, who can convince an Agricultural-Livestock Cooperative farmer, a farmer who during the

capitalist era lacked everything, was a tenant, was kicked off his land? Who can convince him that those who did that 35 years ago, if now reconciled and back in Cuba, are not going to do it again?

[Santana] Is reconciliation not a term imposed by the enemy propaganda?

[Sesto] As a matter of fact, we began by establishing that the term reconciliation is a word used by the enemy propaganda. Abroad this is promoting the image that in Cuba there is a situation of civil war, a chaotic situation, an extreme crisis that has turned Cuban against Cuban, etc, etc. When they use the term reconciliation they seek to create that kind of image of Cuba. They are trying to present an image of chaos in Cuba, even, an image of failure of the Cuban Revolution. Some people in Cuba have even dared to publicly advocate reconciliation. We asked ourselves: Can any Cuban of sound mind—I believe—accept reconciliation with those who want to destroy him, those who even want to make him go back to times Cubans have even forgotten? Of course, Cubans today do not have it easy. Cubans are experiencing the blows of a severe economic crisis. However, I am convinced that if Cubans had to chose between the so-called opportunities of that capitalism we knew and this situation, any intelligent Cuban would not hesitate to chose this situation which as a minimum guaranties his honor, dignity, and potential to improve.

[Santana] You know that in the past, an open and fluid dialogue as the one that is being proposed now between both sides, was unthinkable. Why the chance? Is this an adjustment in agreement with current times?

[Sesto] We believe in dialectics. We even believe that dialectics is a tool for life. It is an important tool for life. It is also a law that rules the evolution of things in life. It even rules social activity itself. I believe that when we speak of dialogue, we speak of dialogue with emigre sectors... [pauses] I, as an observer of our reality believe that we are speaking with the Cuban emigrant who went abroad, no matter what costume he had to don, in other words, no matter that he had to accept the public politization of emigration which deep down was economic. However, if that emigrant does not want to settle accounts with Cuba, I believe Cuba is already in condition to see emigration in a new light and allow the emigrant to at least maintain the ties with his roots.

I also believe that a people cannot be alienated from its emigres for long. Emigration is a global phenomenon. Before leaving for the studio, I was reading a Marti chronicle, published in a U.S. newspaper, on the Italian, Spanish, and Argentine immigration to the United States in 1885—over a hundred years ago. Emigration is as old as mankind. This is why Cuba is today in condition to see emigration under the light emigrants deserve and a light which is beneficial to its national interests.

[Santana] Lets be specific: Whom are our interlocutors?

[Sesto] We also have to specify, interlocutors about what and for what?

[Santana] Interlocutors within Cuba and abroad.

[Sesto] We already mentioned that there is no need for reconciliation, the action of reconciliation in Cuba. Cuba does not need to reconcile with anyone. The Cuban people do not need to reconcile, not even with themselves. I believe that the Cuban people, a majority—I do not believe this is a phase....[pauses] when we speak of a majority, we speak of a majority that exists and is vital and active in Cuba.

For example, what better proof of the fact that the great majority of the Cuban people support the revolutionary government and embraces the Cuban Revolution than this: For the last two or three years we have been experiencing a very grave situation. However, our country is standing. Cuba has not surrendered. Our country has not fallen apart. Under these circumstances any other society might have collapsed. However, Cuba remains standing, keeps the faith, and is firm in the struggle. I believe this is because Cuba is sustained by the pride of the great majority of the Cuban people.

In other words, I do not believe that within Cuba we have to reconcile with anyone, and abroad we have no need to reconcile with those who are asking for our heads. I believe it would be an absurd reconciliation which will always work against ourselves. Those who are asking for our heads will always want our heads. We are speaking of the terrorists in Miami, the annexationist groups in Miami. They will always ask for our heads. They will only accept a so-called reconciliation once our heads are on the table.

[Santana] There is talk of an opposition within Cuba. What is its future?

[Sesto] We could say there is an opposition within Cuba. I would always put these words within quotation marks. There are small groups, tiny groups because they are truly small and at times the group's name is longer than its membership. At times these groups consist of the founder, his wife, and two or three kids. This is a reality. It is not a joke. It is a fact.

We could speak of what is the future of the opposition in Cuba. Well, I believe that aside from the fact that the present is not an appropriate time for opposition, the present of Cuba, its interests and national survival demand unity from all Cubans, it even demands the postponement of any differences until things are back to normal in Cuba.

I believe that we have to see what opposition we are speaking about. It is an opposition that disagrees in order to build or in order to destroy? As an observer, I believe that it is possible that in the measure that the situation in Cuba changes, there might even be room for constructive opposition. I have no doubt that those who disagree have the right not only to disagree but also to express that disagreement but for constructive purposes.

Now, we cannot speak of opposition rights in a country threatened by a foreign power, particularly, an opposition—and we have have seen this many times—that has cars parked in front of their homes bearing tags indicative

of that country that blockades, threatens, and harasses us. We believe that the so-much-discussed, or so-called domestic opposition are simply the arms, the scouts of the animosity and hostility of the United States. This is my opinion. I believe that in this case there is nothing more to say.

[Santana] Many issues could motivate this dialogue we are speaking about. However, there is one that is basic: emigration. What is your opinion?

[Sesto] Those are the interlocutors to whom you were referring. We spoke of those emigres, the majority of the Cuban emigres abroad, Cubans who at different times left Cuba seeking economic wellbeing, material wealth, and who despite having adopted certain political positions, or certain political masks, or costumes, forced by the circumstances....[pauses] We spoke in this program of that problem: Emigration has been politically manipulated by the United States in its war against Cuba. In order to emigrate many people have had to adopt certain political stands.

That was a specific period. Right now, what those emigres need is perhaps to reestablish ties with the fatherland. Because, as we mentioned earlier, those emigres are not seeking to settle accounts with Cuba, or its government. They are not asking to share in the government and power.

[Santana] Luis, how should we view emigration? How should we handle the Cuban emigrant?

[Sesto] That is a topic that has its rough edges. We are undergoing a process of refocusing and readjusting our ideas regarding emigration. I do not believe we should receive these people like heroes. Some people are trying to force us to receive them like heroes. No, no way! We must not receive them like heroes or antiheroes. We must receive then as what they are. They are Cuban emigrants. They are Cubans who chose another future, who went to another country to start another life. As far as they are concerned, returning to their homeland makes no sense. They chose another future. All they want is to maintain ties with their homeland and families. Perhaps they may even want to help their families. I agree that they should have every right to send their families money. It is only right that a father, son, uncle, or nephew should help the members of the family who stayed behind in the country he left. That is the way I see it. They should not be received as heroes or antiheroes. We are not thinking that the solution to our problems will come from this source. It is a mistake to think that Cuba will solve the problems it has with the money they are sending. We need much more money than that to solve our problems. We will solve our problems with work. I believe we should welcome them as emigrants returning to roots and family. All they want is to keep an open line of communication with their family in Cuba and their homeland. I do believe that the attitude assumed by our country is good and it should be supported.

## IAEA Hears Demand on Change in Treaty

*FL0412125393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[Text] Today at the International Atomic Energy Agency headquartered in Vienna, Austria, Cuba demanded the elimination of the two-category state system mentioned in the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons treaty: those which do not possess these weapons, and the known nuclear powers. Andres Garcia de la Cruz, executive secretary of the Atomic Energy Commission of Cuba, said that the agency should demand that the known nuclear powers honor their commitment to end the nuclear arms race and to disarm, a commitment set 25 years ago. Garcia de la Cruz made these comments during a meeting of the agency's Board of Governors, and he insisted on the adoption of a new policy to strengthen the efficiency of the safeguard [salvaguardia] system.

Garcia de la Cruz also pointed out that, before proceeding with the implementation of these programs, it is necessary to establish an adequate legal framework and to proceed with the programs without waiting for the results of the technical and economic evaluation to determine their implications from the legal standpoint.

## Roundup of Economic Activity 29 Nov to 4 Dec

*FL0612141393*

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 29 November and 4 December.

Radio Reloj at 2042 GMT on 29 November reports that the Cienfuegos municipality of Cumanayagua, in the Escambray Mountains, has harvested 60,000 cans of coffee beans, a figure in keeping with the plan for the harvest.

Radio Reloj at 2055 GMT on 29 November reports that a new four-star hotel, the Cuatro Vientos, has been inaugurated in the Santa Lucia resort area in northern Camaguey Province. Through an agreement with the Cubanacan corporation, the hotel is the first in Cuba to be run by the Spanish firm (Rey-Tour Caribe).

Cuba Vision Network at 2320 GMT on 29 November reports that Cuba's citrus-producing enterprises are making progress, thanks to partnerships between Cuban producers and foreign firms that contribute capital, technologies and markets; an example is Tropical Iceland (name in English), "the first industrial plant of mixed-capital in Cuba, a result of the association of the citrus-producing complex Heroes de Playa Giron in Jaguey Grande, Matanzas Province, and the Chilean organization (Ingelco S.A.)." The plant has sophisticated technology for bottling juices, nectars, milk products, and water in paper containers lined with aluminum and plastic. "Traditionally, Cuban citrus fruits reach international markets in the form of fresh fruit and, to a lesser extent, processed as juice concentrate and essential oils. Now these same citrus fruits, prepared and put into containers using the most

advanced of world technologies, are reaching nontraditional markets, such as Japan and the EEC, with the capacity to satisfy the most demanding of tastes and to bring in much more money. Furthermore, the fact that Tropical Iceland is operating allows Cuba to substitute imports and offer tourists Cuban products that are competitive."

Radio Reloj at 2039 GMT on 2 December reports that the fertilizer needed for the nation's potato cultivation is now guaranteed: Eight thousand tons of this fertilizer have been produced by the Rayonitro Enterprise of the city of Matanzas. This guarantees that the nation will have all the fertilizer it needs for the task—a total of 17,000 tons, which should be ready by mid-December.

Radio Reloj at 2049 GMT on 2 December reports that a 60-member, 35-caballeria Basic Cooperative Production unit for growing miscellaneous crops has been formed in Los Palacios. Its primary crop will be plantains, but it will also grow other tubers and vegetables and raise livestock.

Radio Rebelde at 1800 GMT on 2 December reports that the Havana cooperative workers and peasants are concerned because they are behind in their winter planting, particularly in potatoes and garlic. They are responsible for 113 and 103 caballerias, respectively. Planting should be completed by 31 December.

Radio Rebelde at 1800 GMT on 2 December reports that as of November, there are 507 nonsugarcane Basic Cooperative Production Units [UBPC] throughout the country. The organization of this type of UBPC was strengthened after studies conducted in each province determined that they are necessary. These units are composed of 54,637 workers responsible for 43,170 caballerias of state-owned lands.

Radio Reloj at 1509 GMT on 3 December reports that Cuba has the potential to produce more than 70 million plantains in vitro annually. Cuba has created 14 biofactories, mainly to produce plantain seeds; they also can be used to increase the production of sugarcane, pineapple, and vegetables. The Villa Clara factory is working on producing potato seed, which costs the country more than $10 million.

Cuba Vision at 2320 GMT on 3 December reports that Cuba's biggest vaccine-producing plant is being inaugurated on 3 December, in a salute to the 160th anniversary of the birth of Carlos J. Finlay and Latin American Medicine Day. The factory is at the Scientific Hub of the West, in Havana; it completes the Finlay Institute's installations and has top-notch technology. It was built at a cost of $130 million and has the capacity to make 250 million doses of vaccines. (Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks at 0100 GMT on 4 December give a production capacity of 350 million doses.) Also inaugurated on 3 September was an operating room at (Freyre de Andrade) Hospital, known for providing emergency services. This hospital now has eight operating rooms, as well as other new or updated facilities. The remodeling of this hospital has cost 250 million pesos.

In the same newscast, Cuba Vision reports on the Rayonitro factory in Matanzas, which produces special fertilizers for growing potatoes and tobacco. "The three plants that make the mixed, granulated, and complex fertilizer are working at full capacity, thanks to the efforts of this enterprise's technicians and maintenance specialists." There are three workshifts. "The Rayonitro enterprise promised to make, beginning in September and as soon as they received the necessary raw materials, the 70,000 tons (figure as heard) of fertilizer. This production will ensure that the potato seeds purchased abroad are not wasted, and the nation will save hard currency."

Radio Rebelde at 1800 GMT on 4 December reports that repairs are underway throughout the country to get the sugar mills ready for the coming harvest. Minister Nelson Torres visited the America Libre Sugar Mill in Matanzas where he inspected the repairs of the milling system. Workers told him that the work will be completed by harvest time.

## Bermuda

### UK, U.S. To Negotiate on Future of Base

*FL0412175993 Bridgetown CANA in English 1658 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[Text] Hamilton, Bermuda, 4 Dec, CANA—The British and Bermuda governments have agreed to work together on the withdrawal of the United States military base here in two years' time.

Mark Lennox Boyd, the Foreign Office junior minister responsible for Bermuda, a British colony, emerged from a one-hour meeting with Premier Sir John Swan Friday, saying his government was ready to back Bermuda in negotiations with the Americans over the 1995 closure of the U.S. naval air station here. "We fully recognise that Sir John and his government must be in the forefront of negotiations," Lennox Boyd told reporters. He indicated his government would play a role in talks as well because, "in the end it involves an agreement between the U.S. and British governments".

Lennox Boyd, who was visiting the island for the first time, said there was no question about his government granting Bermuda authorisation to negotiate the base wind-down. "There isn't any problem about it," he said. "It's a matter of recognising the Bermuda Government being in the front line."

Sir John has said the U.S. withdrawal could mean the loss of more than six per cent of the island's gross domestic product—a development that could force cuts in government service, "unless we find an alternative way to get the economy growing".

In talks with the U.S. and NATO military chief in Washington and Norfolk earlier this week, Sir John made it clear Bermuda should have the power to negotiate its own future on the base issue.

The U.S. Navy also insisted that Bermuda have authourisation from Britain before the start of talks.

Lennox Boyd did not stand in the way of that determination. "What (the premier) wants will happen," he said.

Lennox Boyd also told Sir John his government was prepared to provide Bermuda with technical and legal assistance in negotiations with the Americans. Later, Sir John said he was pleased with the meeting. "The United Kingdom played a major role in the establishment of the base which helped produce the expansion in our economy," he said. "I hope the UK will play a role in this upcoming challenge and that they'll provide legal and technical assistance taht will help us minimise the impact of the base closure."

Lennox Boyd later met opposition leader Frederick Wade, who used the opportunity to express concerns about Bermuda's role in the negotiations. Wade said the minister did not answer his question on whether the British Government was prepared to help financially in the event Bermuda was severely damaged by the base closure. Rather, he said Lennox Boyd expressed confidence the Americans would do everything possible to bring the base issue to an amicable and good conclusion for the island. Wade again attacked Sir John's base diplomacy which has involved numerous overseas meetings with U.S. and UK leaders. "It is clear there is no Bermuda plan on the base closure," he said. "There is not even the beginning of a plan. We are no further forward in this than we were six months or a year ago. We're now behind the eight ball on this."

Lennox Boyd, who left Bermuda on Friday, had arrived 24 hours earlier from Ottawa where he met the new Canadian Government.

## Dominica

### Opposition Leader Opposed To St. Kitts Troop Deployment

*FL0412013893 Bridgetown CANA in English 2243 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Excerpts] Roseau, Dominica, 3 Dec, CANA—Dominica should not send Regional Security System (RSS) troops into St. Kitts-Nevis, where a state of emergency exists, says opposition parliamentarian and leader of the Dominica Labour Party, Rosie Douglas.

Douglas said he was opposed to countries whose parties were members of the Caribbean Democratic Union (CDU) moving in "to defend something which is unjust".

"We do not believe really that the first response is to send in the troops. We believe that Caricom (Caribbean Community), at that kind of level, heads of state should have some kind of discussion," the Labour Party leader added. He said if the RSS intervened it would be doing so on behalf of Dr. Kennedy Simmonds, whose party did not get a clear majority in Monday's general elections, "and in fact got less votes than Dr. Denzil Douglas' Labour Party even if both parties won four seats each." [passage omitted]

"That is an immoral regime that does not reflect the wishes of the people of St. Kitts in the general election," Douglas said of the Peoples Action Movement/Nevis Reformation Party five-seat coalition.

Vincent Cuffy, a spokesman for Caribbean Rights, the regional hiuman rights organisation, suggested the governor general had moved too hastily, following the election dead-heat. "There should have been a sort of government of national unity... which which you may call an interim government, and the main purpose of that government should be, to organise elections quickly," Cuffy told CANA. "We would like to see civil liberties restored as soon as possible," he added.

## Haiti

### Malval Holds Three-Hour Meeting With Aristide

*FL0312220693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Haitian Prime Minister Robert Malval talked for more than three hours on 2 December with President Aristide. Mr. Malval arrived in the American capital on Wednesday 1 December in order to give an account to Mr. Aristide of the situation in Haiti. He pointedly refused to indicate if he had submitted to Mr. Aristide his resignation effective 15 December as he had said he would over the past few days. Robert Malval was accompanied by American Ambassador William Lacy Swing. Robert Malval is due to meet this morning with the third in command in the State Department, Peter Tarnoff; Alexander Watson, the assistant to the secretary of state for inter-American affairs; and Lawrence Pezzullo, the special adviser to the U.S. administration for Haiti.

### To Give Resignation Answer

*FL0312223093 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio In French 1800 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Haitian Prime Minister Robert Malval indicated today that he would give a more specific answer by next week regarding his staying or not as head of the government and that he had noticed a more accommodating attitude on the part of of the Army chiefs regarding the crisis. I will give a more specific answer next week, after my meeting with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on 7 December in New York, Mr. Malval told journalists who were questioning him on his possible resignation.

[Begin Malval recording] Listen! I will answer you the same way. I wish to give you a more specific answer next week. At this time, I wish not to have to answer the question. If you allow me, I will give you an answer by next week. [end recording]

I do not want to put myself in an awkward position nor to put anyone else in an awkward position, he added before the insistence of the media on that subject. During the past few days, Mr. Malval reiterated several times and unambiguously his intention to leave his functions on 15 December as planned when he was appointed. For Mr.

Malval, the Army authorities appear more accommodating. They are more willing to compromise and this willingness in itself is a new thing, he said during a press conference on the premises of the International Organization of Jurists for Human Rights. Those words could give substance to rumors according to which divergences of interpretation on ways to solve the Haitian crisis allegedly appeared between Mr. Malval and the Haitian constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The Haitian prime minister also thinks that the hope of a compromise is still alive in Haiti, despite the current political deadlock. Christmas is near and Christmas is a favorable period for the spirit of peace and hope. We will most likely take some initiatives in December and we hope that those initiatives will bring not only hope but also a possible solution to the crisis, he added.

[Begin Malval recording in Creole] [Word indistinct] a truce for the festivities. We spoke about that with the Army last time we met. Thus, when I return I hope that the spirit of the truce will reign. [In French] Listen! We are close to Christmas. It is always a favorable period to a spirit of peace and hope. We certainly will take some initiatives during the month and we hope like anyone else that those initiatives will bring not only hope but a possible solution to the crisis. [end recording]

Mr. Malval also indicated that he was in Washington in order to inform President Aristide about the situation, and that it was not at all a question of concessions in his discussions in the federal capital. Furthermore, the Haitian prime minister reasserted his adherence to the Governors Island accord. It is necessary to maintain this accord and Haiti will not be able to do it alone, he said. The Governors Island accord signed on 3 July between President Aristide and Army Commander in Chief General Raoul Cedras under the aegis of the United Nations provided for the return of the democratic process and the return to Haiti of Mr. Aristide on 30 October. Mr. Malval who talked first on 2 December with Father Aristide, was received today by Peter Tarnoff, the third in command at the State Department; Alexander Watson, the assistant to the secretary of state for inter-American affairs; and the Mr. Lawrence Pezzullo, special adviser to the U.S. administration on Haiti.

## Foreign Minister Makes Speech to UN Assembly

*FL0312225693 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1800 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Today Haitian Foreign Minister Claudette Weirleigh asked the international community to adopt some clear and unambiguous measures toward the reestablishment of the constitutional order in her country. The time has come for the international community to take some measures in order to ensure respect for its previous decisions regarding the crisis in Haiti, Claudette Werleigh, member of the cabinet of the legitimate government of Prime Minister Robert Malval, stated in a speech before the UN General Assembly. According to Mrs. Werleigh, only a real embargo can lead to some concrete results. In Mrs. Werleigh's view the meeting of the representatives of the four friendly countries to Haiti—the United States, Canada, France, Venezuela—convened for 13 and 14 December in Paris at the initiative of France, should help to examine some new proposals toward the adoption of some clear and unambiguous measures in order to ensure respect for the Governors Island accord.

In October the Security Council reimposed an oil and military embargo against Haiti in order to attempt to prompt the military putchists to give up power and allow the return of constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. According to some diplomatic sources, France is still in favor of strengthening the sanctions against Haiti with a general commercial embargo. However, the United States maintains its reserve on that subject. Mrs. Werleigh recalled that Mr. Malval would resign on 15 December if by then nothing is done toward the complete application of the Governors Island accord. The Haitian crisis poses a problem of moral authority for the United Nations. In conclusion to a debate on the crisis in Haiti, the UN General Assembly should adopt on 6 December a resolution condemning the violation of human rights in the country as well as the attempts by the military putchists to delay or prevent the immediate return to Port-au-Prince of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was overthrown on 30 September 1991.

## National Assembly Official Views Malval Mission

*FL0312181093 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Passage within quotation marks in Creole]

[Text] The president of the lower chamber commented on the trip to the United States of the Haitian prime minister. The president of the House of Deputies hopes that Robert Malval is going to ask for the lifting of the embargo. Commenting on the trip to the United States of the head of the government, House of Deputies President Antoine Joseph thinks that it is the prime minister's duty to request the suspension of the economic sanctions against Haiti.

Furthermore, the president of the lower chamber criticized the attitude of the government and the international community toward the Haitian Armed Forces. Antoine Joseph also gave his opinion on MINUHA [United Nations Mission in Haiti] and the creation of a new police force. Antoine Joseph is interviewed by our reporter Edner Jean:

[Begin recording] [Joseph] On leaving, Mr. Malval simply said that he was going to speak about the realities of the situation with President Aristide. We hope that Mr. Malval, who has been in office about two months, has acquired some experience and that he will express it to President Aristide. He could tell him about the political, social, and economic realities. One of the important decisions I am expecting is the suspension of the sanctions, the lifting of the embargo. If Mr. Malval, who experienced the consequences of the embargo, who noticed the damage provoked by the sanctions, finds himself unable to achieve this goal, it is certain that any decision he would have to

make in the future is neither going to respond to the situation, nor to the concerns of many Haitians in the current circumstances.

[Jean] "But we know that there are some conditions—referring to what you said—the international community asked for in order to lift the embargo. Do you think that the other protagonist of the crisis who is in Haiti [pauses]... what advice would you give to the Army so that the embargo is lifted?"

[Joseph] I say that the international community, in the framework of the Governors Island Accord, made a major mistake. The mistake was that, at a certain time, the impression was that the creation of a new police force, which is a constitutional requirement, was taken in a very wrong way by the international community and by the government of Mr. Malval. The impression was that this police force was being created to penalize an institution which is the Army and, by extension, to penalize a man in the person of Michel Francois. I believe that there is a possibility to discuss this question again, a question important for the future of democracy—that is true. But it is necessary to tackle it in a better way by searching for a closer and more efficient cooperation on the part of the Army, which has occupied the police function in this country for several years. [end recording]

### Deputies Working on Alternatives if Malval Resigns

*FL0312223393 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Regarding the possible resignation of the prime minister, Deputy Antoine Joseph revealed to Radio Metropole that some talks were taking place among the various political blocs in the Chamber of Deputies. The blocs are said to be considering some possible solutions in order to fill in for the possible resignation of Robert Malval. Here are some explanations from the president of the Chamber of Deputies, Antoine Joseph:

[Begin Joseph recording in Creole] On 2 December an informal meeting was held with the participation of all the political groups represented in the Chamber of Deputies. Thus, up to now we have not reached a conclusion for a proposal, but we think that we will meet on 3 December. We are going to agree on some principles, on some ideas and from there we will see if we can elaborate on a plan for a solution. [In French] The only thing that I can say—and I said so during my visit to Washington—it is impossible to have a solution the Army opposes or one that the international community opposes. [In Creole] Therefore, one of our concerns is to find a proposal that can take into account the interests of both groups. [end recording].

## Jamaica

### Paper Suggests Caricom Intervention in St. Kitts

*FL0312214893 Bridgetown CANA in English 1559 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica 3 Dec, CANA—Following is the text of an editorial in Friday's Jamaica GLEANER—a state of emergency was declared in St. Kitts-Nevis yesterday following the post-election turmoil, particularly marked in St. Kitts.

On Monday, November 29, the people of St. Kitts voted in their general elections and elected four members of the ruling People's Action Movement (PAM) led by Dr. Kennedy Simmonds, and four members of the St. Kitts and Nevis Labour Party (LP) led by Dr. Denzil Douglas. But the votes were 51 percent for the Labour Party and 49 percent for the PAM.

On the sister island of Nevis, the Nevis Reformation Party won none, while the Concerned Citizens' Movement (CCM) of former cricketer Vance Amory won the remainiig two seats.

Mr. Amory has rebuffed the efforts of both Dr. Simmonds and Dr. Douglas to join with them with his two seats,so that a majority government can be formed in the 11-member parliament. Instead he has pointed out that his party (CCM) had won three out of five seats in the Nevis local government elections last year, and that he has been running the business of Nevis for over a year as premier. He and his party would therefore attend the central parliament in Basseterre, St. Kitts, and would do nothing to ally itself with either of the two main parties, nor to bring down a minority government.

Accordingly the governor-general's decision to reappoint Dr. Simmonds as prime minister, was based on Amory's announcement, as well as the fact that the PAM-NRP coalition had five seats to Labour's four. But the Labour Party has reacted with furious anger since Dr. Kennedy's swearing-in on Wednesday as prime minister. It says that majority of the people want a change after 13 years to of the PAM, and that new elections should be held. Some of its supporters have been breaking show windows, and have threatened further violence. Hence the decision by the governor-general to call a state of emergency.

This may be an opportune time for the Caricom [Caribbean Community] heads of government to offer to intercede in the dispute between the two parties. For on the one hand Dr. Simmonds minority government will be at the mercy of Nevis Premier Vance Amory, while the majority of people in St. Kitts itself have made it clear by the number of votes, if not of seats, that they wish the return of Dr. Douglas Labour Party to power.

As the tourist season opens, it will be poor publicity for the region if the state of emergency were to fail to stem the violence form the electoral crisis.

### Finance Minister Says Country Meets IMF Criteria

*FL0312234093 Bridgetown CANA in English 2304 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, 3 Dec, CANA—Jamaica's new finance minister Dr. Omar Davies was sworn in to office by Governor General Sir Howard Cooke early Friday and immediately had good news for Jamaicans.

Davies told journalists, Jamaica had passed "all criteria" set under the extended fund agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for September. A government mission would be going to the IMF board next month to finalise the economic programme for October 1 to September 30 next year.

Davies said the government remained committed to its pledge to end its long standing dependence on the fund by 1995.

The new finance minister also said his govewrnment was encouraged by a decline in Jamaica's inflation rate in October and a reduction in money supply. Latest figures released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (Statin) show the inflation rate for October was 2.4 per cent compared with 4.2 per cent the previous month. The inflation rate for the year so far is 22.6 per cent.

Davies said government was intent on continuing its tight monetary and fiscal policies to further moderate the inflation rate to one per cent by the end of the current financial year and to much lower levels by 1995.

Davies' swearing-in followed his runaway victory in a by-election Tuesday for the South St. Andrew constituency in the capital.

## Netherlands Antilles

### Paula Appointed To Form Interim Government

*BR0312130693 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 1 Dec 93 p 6*

[Unattributed article: "Paula To Form Antillean Cabinet"]

[Text] Willemstad, 1 Dec—Governor J. Saleh asked Professor A.F. Paula to form an interim cabinet for the Netherlands Antilles as soon as possible. The interim cabinet is to consist of no more than six ministers. Usually the Netherlands Antillean Government has eight members.

Paula must ensure that the interim cabinet has the confidence of a majority of the Netherlands Antillean Parliament, and that the involvement and interests of all five islands are guaranteed. The cabinet to be formed by Paula is to draw up a specific plan of action for "feasible and balanced changes" to the political and financial relations among the Netherlands Antilles. Also, conditions must be created and concrete proposals made for improving and, where necessary, cutting back the "existing accounting system" of the national government and the various islands.

Finally, the interim cabinet is to present a plan of action for further improvements in the quality of government, according to the governor's brief.

The Netherlands Antillean Government resigned last Wednesday [24 November] after it had lost its parliamentary majority. The cabinet now consists of only four people, following Liberia-Peters' resignation as prime minister, the earlier resignation of Minister Dester Nisbeth, and the resignations of two ministers belonging to the Bonaire-based UPB [Bonaire Patriotic Union] party. Justice Minister Suzanne Romer had been appointed provisional prime minister of the cabinet, which has in the meantime resigned.

New elections will be held on 25 February next year.

## St. Kitts and Nevis

### Uneasy Calm Reported in Capital

*FL0312193293 Bridgetown CANA in English 1730 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Report by Von Southwell]

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, 3 Decdd )government departments re-opened in St. Kitts Friday, but in the aftermath of Thursday's disturbances residents reported an uneasy calm over Basseterre, the capital.

Clashes between hundreds of demonstrators and the declaration of a state of emergency, with a dusk-to-dawn curfew from Thursday, triggered an early closure of city businesses, government offices and schools. The demonstrators, largely supporters of the St. Kitts and Nevis Labour party, were protesting the installation Wednesday of a minority coalition government. They want a Labour administration in place—or fresh elections.

Both major parties in St. Kitts—Labour and the People's Action Movement—finished last Monday's general election with four seats. PAM teamed up with the Nevis Reformation Party (one seat), while the Concerned Citizen's Movement (two seats) shrugged aside overtures from PAM and Labour to form a coalition government.

Hospital sources said at least 18 persons, including three policemen, had been treated for injuries after the clash. Police also reported they had arrested three persons in connection with Thursday's incidents, which included attacks on city businesses, private homes and vehicles. The police said a supermarket run by an Indian family and a hardware store had been looted. They said, though, there had been no incidents during the curfew Thursday night. Basseterre resident, however, reported that the people of Irish town, a depressed area in central Basseterre, had blocked their roads with old refrigerators, tree trunks, galvanised iron sheets and debris. It was not immediately clear what they were protesting.

Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds Thursday night appealed for calm and a return to normalcy here. He said it was a time to build and not destroy. He said if people here continued to act as they did Thursday, they would damage the name of the country abroad.

Friday, life appeared to be moving towards normalcy, with people shopping, heading for work or taking children to school.

## Regional Security Force Sent to St. Kitts

*FL0312201193 Bridgetown CANA in English 1835 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 3 Dec, CANA—The Barbados-headquartered regional security system [RSS] has sent a small detachment to St. Kitts to help maintain law and order, Barbados Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford announced Friday. The main RSS contingent is on standby in Antigua, Sandiford reported.

The announcement followed clashes between police and demonstrators Thursday in Basseterre that left at least 18 persons injured, and the declaration of a state of emergency, with a dusk-to-dawn curfew. The demonstrators were protesting the installation of a minority coalition government headed by Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds Wednesday, two days after the main parties in St. Kitts ended a general election with four seats each. The coalition has five of the 11 parliamentary seats.

Sandiford said the units of the RSS—a security system involving police, coast guard and army units of Caribbean Community member countries—had been mobilised as a "precautionary measure" against further deterioration in the situation in St. Kitts. He said "threats to law and order and to the operation of a democratic institution, or to the security of the state should be discouraged. To this end, as a precautionary measure and in accordance with its mandate, units of the Regional Security System have been mobilised and are on the alert...," he disclosed. He said "a framework of stability is essential" if St.Kitts and Nevis and other Eastern Caribbean territories are to achieve their goals of national development and improved living standards. He will be using his "good offices" to assist in "bringing about a peaceful resolution to the crisis that would be acceptable to all sides". He said he hoped "that commonsense will prevail and that there will be no further need for deeper intervention by the RSS. I am calling on all interests in St. Kitts and Nevis to sit down together and resolve the issues in a peaceful and democratic way rather than deal with them in a manner that causes instability," the prime minister said.

## Simmonds, Douglas Meet To Discuss Situation

*FL0312231093 Bridgetown CANA in English 2249 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Excerpts] Basseterre, St. Kitts, 3 Dec, CANA—A solution to St. Kitts-Nevis' political crisis was within sight Friday evening after a one and a half hour long meeting between Prime Minister Dr. Kennedy Simmonds and St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party leader, Dr. Denzil Douglas. The meeting, facilitated by the intervention of the St. Kitts Christian Council and the Evangelical Association, produced agreement that fresh general elections will be held and that a one-day-old state of emergency will be lifted as soon as possible, Christian Council Chairman Harold Gill told CANA.

"Those are two of the things (agreed on) and I think they are the most important things in the (present) situation," the church leader added.

Dr. Simmonds and Dr. Douglas will give full details of the agreement Saturday during separate broadcasts to the nation over state radio and television. [passage omitted]

Gill said church leaders were "impressed" with how Simmonds and Douglas conducted the meeting. "They left with a very good feeling indeed," he added.

The meeting took place as a small contingent of forces from the Regional Security System (RSS) arrived on St. Kitts. The RSS is a mutual defence arrangement among English-speaking Caribbean countries. Simmonds had requested RSS assistance.

Labour Party leader Dr. Douglas told CANA there was no need for RSS intervention. "There is no unrest in the country anymore," he said. "The police, at the local level, in my opinion, handled the situation quite well yesterday." Douglas said a timetable for fresh elections had not yet been agreed on. It will be further discussed during another meeting between himself and Simmonds over the weekend.

Rev. Gill said Dr. Simmonds promised to lift the state of emergency "whenever things come to a state of normalcy." Dr. Douglas, however, said he believed the emergency should end now as calm had returned to the country.

Attempts by CANA to reach Dr. Simmonds for a comment on the meeting, were unsuccessful.

## Prime Minister-Designate Issues Statement

*FL0412190493 Bridgetown CANA in English 1835 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, 4 Dec, CANA—An uneasy calm and curfew remained in force in St Kitts and Nevis Saturday after key political party leaders failed to reach agreement on a political crisis which has gripped the country since inconclusive general elections last Monday.

Prime Minister-designate Dr Kennedy Simmonds said in a nationwide statement it was untrue an agreement had been achieved on fresh elections. He accused Labour Party leader Dr Denzil Douglas of abusing the negotiating process, in which the two leaders met under the auspices of two religious organisations, the Christian Council and the Evangelical Association, yesterday.

A 21-day curfew went into effect following clashes Thursday between police and demonstrators protesting the appointment of a coalition government headed by Dr Simmonds.

Public statements by Douglas Friday evening that fresh elections had been agreed were premature, said Simmonds, who expressed support for the governor general's decision to appoint a five-seat coalition government involving the Peoples Action Movement (PAM) party and the Nevis Reformation Party (NRP). The Labour Party leader had failed to meet at 6 pm (Eastern Caribbean Time) with the Christian Council and Evangelical Association and provide a statement for vetting and subsequent release Saturday, the pam leader charged.

Dr Simmonds said in a statement lasting about five minutes that following failure by either Labour or his Peoples Action Movement (PNM)—each gaining four seats—to get support of the two-seat Concerned Citizens Movement (CCM) in Nevis to form a government, Governor-General Sir Clement Arrindell acted in accordance with the constitution by appointing the five-seat PAM/NRP coalition to run the country. But the prime minister-designate said if the situation returned to normal the first meeting of parliament could be held in January. At this time, he continued, any party could seek redress under the constitution. "There was the provision for constitutional redress for any party who felt that the government could not survive," he said. "I indicated (at the meeting) that (in the event) of a successful no confidence vote general elections would have to be held and I would be willing to return to the polls within a specific timeframe," he added. Dr Simmonds said the two leaders agreed to publicly appeal for calm and condemn violence.

At least 18 persons were injured during the clashes Thursday. An undisclosed number of persons have been detained by police for their parts in the unrest or breaking the curfew.

A small detachment of soldiers from the Regional Security System (RSS), a military grouping from Caribbean governments, is in St Kitts-Nevis to bolster local policing arrangements.

## Political Leaders Debate Current Situation

*FL0512222593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1748 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 5 Dec, CANA—Leaders of the two main political parties in St Kitts remained divided Sunday on the political future of the twin-island state, but appealed for calm and denounced violence.

The twin-island state is under a state of emergency following an inconclusive general election Monday which left the incumbent Peoples Action Movement (PAM) with four seats, the same as the Labour Party.

Prime Minister Dr Kennedy Simmonds, who heads a slender one-seat coalition, today ruled out a government of national unity in a pre-recorded radio discussion with Labour Party leader Dr Denzil Douglas, carried on Voice of Barbados here.

"The question of a government of national unity is out of the question," said Simmonds, who declared the governor general, Sir Clement Arrindell, under the constitution, had no option other than granting power to the five-member PAM/Nevis Reformation Party (NRP) coalition. He said St Kitts-Nevis operated under a first-past-the-poll system and there were similar examples in Belize and Grenada where parties had been elected by virtue of more seats in parliament, even though they may have received a smaller percentage of the overall vote. "Me and my colleagues, we form the government of the country. Douglas failed to get the support of Nevis," said the PAM leader. "Why shouldn't I operate under the constitution?" But Dr Simmonds said he had no wish to hold on to power at any cost. "The situation is tenuous. I am not discouting that," he remarked, noting there was a possibility of Labour, with its four seats and the two-seat Concerned Citizens Movement (CCM) in Nevis coming together to vote against the coalition.

Dr Douglas repeated calls for a fresh election, arguing this was the wish of the people of the country. He said Simmonds had a moral duty to call fresh elections.

At least 18 persons were injured in post-election demonstrations and violence Thursday.

A small detachment of soldiers from the Regional Security System (RSS) is supporting local police in what Prime Minister Dr Kennedy Simmonds said was a "purely defensive position".

Under the timeframe raised by Dr Simmonds and providing calm led to a lifting of the curfew and state of emergency in St Kitts the National Assembly would have a formal meeting in January, to be followed by another meeting in three months time. He said he would abide by any decision taken at the second meeting. This timetable means the opposition parties might have to wait until April before they could seek to have the government ousted.

But Dr Douglas said there should be a return to negotiations and the working out of a possible government of national unity, involving political parties, the business sector, technocrats and religious bodies. He also called for a "clear indication of fresh elections urgently" with an interim government in place. These elections should be held in January or at the latest mid-February, said the Labour Party leader. Dr Douglas charged there was no need for the Regional Security System (RSS) to have soldiers on the island, charging their role was to allow Dr Simmonds to "hold on to power" and "subjugate his people".

But Prime Minister Simmonds roundly denied this saying Labour had "incited" public support for the demonstration and failed to appeal for calm and condemn violence.

There had also been cases of attacks on government buildings and selective destruction of business places, private homes and vehicles. Also, fires had been set at the international airport and a molotov cocktail thrown into the building housing the Ministry of Health.

Dr Simmonds said police were tired and hard pressed in the circumstances, hence the need for the RSS, whose role was "not to prop up anyone". Dr Douglas argued his party did not support violence. "I want to make it absolutely clear that we denounce violence as a solution to this problem. We denounce it categorically," he remarked. But he added the people of St Kitts-Nevis were against the coalition government and likely to "continue to express their anger".

The state of emergency was declared for 21 days but Prime Minister Simmonds noted the situation had calmed down considerably.

### Curfew Eased Due to 'Improved Situation'

*FL0512231593 Bridgetown CANA in English 2110 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[Excerpt] Basseterre, St. Kitts, 5 Dec, CANA—Citing an improved situation, the governor general Sunday announced a reduction in hours of a curfew imposed last Thursday at the height of public unrest over appointment of a Labour-led coalition government.

An official statement said :"Bearing in mind that the situation in St Kitts appears to be gradually improving, his excellency the governor general has directed that with effect from Sunday December 5 and until further notice the hours of the curfew, that is to say the time when persons are prohibited from being out of doors without special authority, shall be from 9 pm to 5 am."

The curfew previously was from dusk to dawn. [passage omitted]

### Opposition Leader Calls for New Elections

*FL0612014393 Bridgetown CANA in English 0005 GMT 6 Dec 93*

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, 5 Dec, CANA—Opposition leader Dr Denzil Douglas repeated a call Sunday for fresh elections in St Kitts-Nevis, saying he could not accept responsibility for continued unrest. But he called on citizens to abhor violence and contended there could be no prosperity and peace without justice.

At least 18 persons were injured Thursday when demonstrators, upset over the appointment of the coalition government, clashed with police. This prompted the declaration of a state of emergency.

"I believe that an announcement of new elections now would create conditions of peace and stability and allow for an immediate return to normalcy in which our democratic conditions will continue to flourish," he said in a national address. "In the meantime," said the Labour Party leader, "everything should be done to create fairness to all. I will do everything within my power to bring this nation of ours to the position of peace and tranquility which we once knew. But I cannot accept responsibility for continued unrest if fresh elections are not called now. And we must all bear in mind that continued unrest would do untold harm to our economy."

Dr Douglas said there could be no doubt that the people voted overwhelmingly last Monday against the coalition of People's Action Movement/Nevis Reformation Party (PAM/NRP), giving Labour more than 54 per cent of the vote compared with the coalition's 41 per cent. Labour also received more votes than the coalition—8,405 compared with the combined PAM/NRP's 6,449.

Prime Minister Dr Kennedy Simmonds contends that under the constitution the governor general had no option but to appoint the five-member coalition as the new government.

Both Labour and PAM, with four seats each, courted the two-seat Concerned Citizens Movement (CCM) of businessman Vance amory but he refused to support either.

In a brief statement Sunday Prime Minister Simmonds said Dr Douglas contravened the negotiation process and as a result no decision was arrived at talks mediated by religious groups, the Christian Council and the Evangelical Association.

The two church bodies brought the two leaders together at the weekend in a failed attempt to resolve the crisis.

## Trinidad and Tobago

### Oil Company To Receive Andean Pact Loan

*FL0412005593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1548 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, 3 Dec, CANA—The Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company (Trintoc) is expected to receive a US10 million dollar loan from the Venezuela-based Andean Development Corporation later this month, according to a well-placed government source. The source told CANA that the loan will assist Trintoc in financing trade with the Andean member countries, Venezuela, Colombia, Equador, Peru and Bolivia.

The president of the Andean Development Corporation, Enrique Garcia, is expected to arrive here December 13. He will meet with Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Patrick Manning and junior finance minister with responsibilities for investment, Ken Valley.

The source said that the loan will help Trintoc to finance trade between the oil company and the Andean Pact countries in the areas of petroleum products, services and capital goods.

### Canadian Prime Minister's Approval Noted

*PA0312143793 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Report by Patricia Gutierrez; from the "Good Morning From Mexico" newscast]

[Text] In Ottawa, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien announced Thursday that his government will promulgate NAFTA on 1 January as scheduled. He noted that even though NAFTA is not perfect, he is satisfied with renegotiated agreements on labor, environment, energy, and water resources.

Meanwhile, the U.S. and Mexican Governments have expressed their pleasure with the Canadian decision to back the implementation of NAFTA on 1 January 1994, as we all have been expecting.

Patricia Gutierrez has the details:

[Gutierrez] The Governments of Mexico, Canada, and the United States have agreed to establish a working team to check on subsidies and unfair trade practices. Within two years, this working team must make recommendations on these issues to the NAFTA commerce commission. Now that Canadian concern with NAFTA is over, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien has announced his government's decision to promulgate the trilateral agreement and to implement it.

During a news conference, Mexican Commerce Secretary Jaime Serra Puche reported that the three countries have agreed to issue a joint declaration ratifying that water resources are not included in the NAFTA text which therefore does not grant any right to exploit water resources.

[Begin Serra recording] I want to say that I have sent a letter to the Mexican Senate reporting on these agreements and reiterating that the definition on water resources is to clarify that the treaty does not involve water resources, that the definition does not mean that treaty negotiations have been reopened or that any part of the treaty is being altered, and to report that based on Article 1504 of the treaty we have formed a working team to analyze subsidies and dumping and this team is to report to the commerce commission within two years at the most. [end recording]

Serra Puche said that the legislative procedures that each country counts on to implement the trade agreement will be completed this year so that all the formalities are covered to allow the implementation of NAFTA on 1 January 1994.

### Costa Rican President on Joining NAFTA

*PA0312053293 Paris AFP in Spanish 0200 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] San Jose, 2 Dec (AFP)—Although it will not be easy, Costa Rica could be ready to join NAFTA in two and one-half years based on the progress made in negotiations, President Rafael Angel Calderon said today upon returning from this week's meeting of Central American presidents with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

In a press release, Calderon said Costa Rica is advancing "slowly but surely" in its free trade negotiations with both the United States and Mexico, which began more than two years ago. He noted that services and copyrights are the most difficult topics, but he added that "I am confident" our country can reach agreements within the next two and one-half years.

During a meeting in Washington on 30 November, the Central American presidents asked U.S. President Clinton to extend to the Central American countries the benefits of the agreement signed with Mexico and Canada, which will be implemented in January. President Clinton promised to promote negotiations to incorporate Central America into the agreement.

According to Calderon, Costa Rica would be the first Central American country to join the free trade agreement. He added that in 1994 the country could receive the benefits of an expansion of the U.S. Caribbean Basin Initiative while negotiations continue.

Calderon dismissed allegations that Mexico's entrance into the NAFTA could be harmful. He noted that Mexico will implement the agreement in phases, and that, in the meantime, Costa Rica will "receive the same treatment" without losing the benefits of the Caribbean Basin Initiative through which the United States gives the countries in the area preferential duties, while a free trade agreement is negotiated with Mexico. "The agreement with Mexico is advancing well," and after the most recent round of talks in Mexico City last week, "we seem to be eliminating the obstacles and we may only need one more meeting in December," Calderon said.

### Endara Comments on Central America Joining

*PA0412155693 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Dec 93*

[From the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] Various sectors have expressed the opinion that Central America joining NAFTA is a long-term possibility. These opinions were expressed following the meeting held between U.S. President Bill Clinton and the Central American presidents, including Panamanian President Guillermo Endara.

[Begin recording] [Endara] The talks did not lead to an immediate and total commitment, but President Clinton was positive.

[Unidentified reporter] President Clinton was careful not to make any formal promises to the Central American presidents. However, President Endara explained, the first steps to begin negotiations were taken through the formation of a follow-up commission. Although the Central American presidents have not appointed the members of this commission, they agreed that the ministers could not be members because it constitutes a full-time task. President Endara believes negotiations of this type do not

conclude overnight because it took Mexico four and a half years. In addition, Panama has some disadvantages such as high tariffs and production costs.

[Endara] We have a strong currency, that is, we use the U.S. dollar, which is an advantage and a disadvantage at the same time.

[Reporter] However, National Bank Manager Luis Moreno believes that the advantages to using the U.S. dollar are greater.

[Moreno] I think all countries, not only in Central America but in South America and worldwide are swinging over the U.S. dollar.

[Reporter] According to Moreno, NAFTA will strengthen the value of the U.S. dollar, which has been used in Panama for 150 years. Moreno considers the banking center to be another advantage, because it provides major support for commercial exchange. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Jose Raul Mulino believes that the current situation represents a great opportunity offered by the United States to the six Central American nations. However, Mulino believes that any future negotiations pertains to the private sector more than to the government.

[Mulino] The private sector must understand what NAFTA is all about, and what the country can and cannot offer in exchange for free trade.

[Reporter] Mulino insists that the negotiation will be a long one and that it will extend beyond Endara's administration because only the first step has been taken. In the meantime, former comptroller Ruben Dario Carles—who was in the United States as part of a business team during the talks between Clinton and the Central American presidents—believes that Panamanians must make an effort to learn about NAFTA's scope, so that they will be able to take advantage of it.

[Carles] We cannot try to mix the commercial exchange and economic concessions agreement with the negotiation of the military bases. [end recording]

### Discusses NAFTA With Clinton

*PA0312172293 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Dec 93 p 1a*

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Excerpt] Upon his return to Panama City from the United States last night, President Guillermo Endara said that Bill Clinton, his U.S. counterpart, "has opened the door" to Central America so that we can participate in NAFTA.

Endara, together with the Central American presidents, attended a meeting with Clinton in Washington where they requested the integration of the countries in the region into NAFTA, an agreement recently signed among the United States, Mexico, and Canada.

The Panamanian president described as "favorable" the "exploratory" meeting with Clinton but stressed that now "the ball is in the Central American court." "Clinton opened the NAFTA doors for us and now we must open our markets." With regard to this, "Panamanians have been slow."

After the meeting with Clinton, the Central American leaders decided to create a follow-up commission that will seek the inclusion of the Central American countries in NAFTA.

According to Foreign Minister Jose Mulino, foreign trade is a matter that not only concerns the government but also the private sector. [passage omitted]

### Column Views NAFTA's Impact on Uruguay

*PY0112223993 Montevideo BUSQUEDA in Spanish 25 Nov 93 p 29*

[Column by Michele Santo: "NAFTA's Approval"]

[Text] The fact that the U.S. House of Representatives ratified the free trade agreement between the United States, Canada, and Mexico undoubtedly opens promising chances for Latin America.

The decision to create the largest and richest free trade zone in the world is very important in the sense that it will allow a more fluid movement of goods and productive factors at a time when the recession affecting the most industrialized countries (especially continental Europe and Japan) has once again raised protectionist attitudes. In this regard, NAFTA's ratification represents a positive element in the current negotiations on the GATT Uruguay Round because it has stopped this protectionist resurgence, thus increasing the possibilities of making some progress in the multilateral negotiations for a greater freedom of trade, which seemed unfeasible some weeks ago.

NAFTA's ratification is highly significant for Latin America. It should be recalled that former President Bush—who was the first to promote the idea of a North American common market—wanted to create a common economic space covering the entire continent from Alaska down to Tierra del Fuego. In this sense, it is symptomatic that Chile and Argentina immediately expressed interest in joining this agreement, in view of the fact that the two countries are the ones that have made the most progress in the structural reforms to generate a competitive market economy at an international level.

The possibility of a continental market in the future undoubtedly gives all Latin American countries great opportunities for material progress and social development, although it will have its cost and will imply great adjustment efforts by the different economies.

To some extent, NAFTA's ratification increases the need to implement structural changes at the state reform level and in the social security systems; for the liberation of the various capital markets, services, and production factors; for a greater opening to foreign markets; and for the struggle against inflation and the creation of a stable macroeconomic setting that encourages savings and investment and the allocation of funds, etc. Without these

structural reforms that will generate competitive economies at the international level, the possibilities of surviving in a future continental market are very scarce, and those countries that do not carry out these reforms probably will lose their last chance to reach higher levels in the economic and social development field.

The conclusions for Uruguay are even more evident. NAFTA's ratification increases even more so the need to carry out structural reforms, much more so than Mercosur [Common Market of the South] itself. Chile and Argentina are not the countries with the best chances of joining NAFTA in vain.

The longer we take to carry out these reforms, the greater the relative distance that will separate us from our potential competitors and the greater also the costs to adapt to the new regional and continental realities. It is more than obvious that the rest of the world is not going to wait for us to tune into the rhythm at which the developing world has been moving for many years now. This is more than obvious.

From every viewpoint, it is obvious that Uruguay cannot afford to continue wasting its time. The times in which our neighbor's misfortune became an advantage to us by increasing the prices of exports obviously belongs to the past, undermining the economic grounds of a social model that was progressive and an example to the world at that time.

To recover the level of socio-economic development the country enjoyed at the beginning of the 50's will imply great efforts and a significant change of mentality that, in the first place, implies admitting that the foreign situation Uruguay currently faces is completely different from the past, and that these new international realities unavoidably demand the implementation of significant adjustments to our domestic economy.

Fortunately, the movements toward greater free trade, although not at a regional or continental level, bring some optimism to a small country like Uruguay, which will, therefore, benefit in a greater proportion to the relatively more open markets.

But for this to effectively happen, we must adjust our productive structure in order to be able to effectively compete within the context of the future common market. The problem is essentially ours. The possibility of solving it too.

## Hong Kong Editorial: NAFTA 'Still on Trial'

*HK1911022093 Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 19 Nov 93 p 22*

[Editorial: "NAFTA Still on Trial"]

[Text] The cause of free trade gained a victory yesterday. United States President Bill Clinton's surprisingly strong 234-200 vote win in the House of Representatives on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) should, at first sight, be as welcome in Asia as in the U.S. It seems to confirm the president's—if not his party's commitment to free trade rather than protectionism as the way to bring new growth to the American economy. And growth for the U.S. economy means more opportunities for its trading partners.

The win bolsters Mr Clinton's credibility in his dealings with the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum in Seattle this week. It also bodes better for the future extension of China's Most Favoured Nation (MFN) trading status than the remarks of his Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen earlier in the week.

But, like many Americans, many Asian countries will be deeply suspicious. The treaty's domestic opponents fear jobs will be lost to Mexico; they argue that the pact will help big business and the Mexican economy at the expense of American jobs. Asian critics fear their exports will be squeezed out of the U.S. market by Mexican goods.

Worse still, the treaty may be used as an excuse for raising trade and investment barriers against Asia, even in sectors where Mexico is no direct threat. Free trade is a good thing but it must be free between all nations. Regional integration—fencing off a free trade area at the expense of the global economy is a danger to prosperity.

Much depends on the effect of the concessions Mr Clinton has been forced to make over the past week in his frantic wooing of congressional support. French, Japanese and Korean farmers alike will be furious at Washington's hypocrisy in providing its own farm states with protection against Canadian wheat and Mexican citrus, while demanding the rest of the world cut subsidies to agriculture.

Mr Clinton's tactics have tarnished the treaty. Although stock markets generally rose on the news of the vote, the euphoria was muted by fears that the worldwide knockon benefits of renewed North American growth may be sharply delayed by additional barriers to trade with Asia.

Asia will welcome Mr Clinton's commitment to free trade and the general signal coming from the U.S. that the protectionists are still on the back foot. But it will want to see that commitment in action before raising a full-throated hurrah for NAFTA.

## XINHUA Roundup Views Philippine Reaction

*OW2011171793 Beijing XINHUA in English 1508 GMT 20 Nov 93*

["Roundup" by Lu Xiaoming: "Philippine Reactions to NAFTA Mixed"]

[Text] Manila, November 20 (XINHUA)—The Philippines has made mixed reactions to the recent passage in the United States House of Representatives of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

President Fidel Ramos, now midway in his visit to the U.S., congratulated the passage, while trade officials

expressed apprehensions that the treaty would deny Philippines' opportunities in trade and investments in the envisioned common market.

On Wednesday [17 November], the U.S. Congress voted 234-200 for the creation of the world's largest free trade area among the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

"I believe that NAFTA is a positive step for global trade liberalization," Ramos said in Houston.

Trade Undersecretary Tomas Alcantara, who is accompanying the president, also said the treaty would eventually lead to increased Philippine export of high-valued manufactures to the U.S., but admitted the country is expecting short-term adverse effects.

A previous study of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) on the implications of NAFTA showed that NAFTA could edge out Philippine exports to the U.S. and Canada and divert direct investments from the North America.

In trade, the study noted that the Philippines has more or less the same cost of labor, which could resulted in some Philippine products in the U.S. and Canada markets buried under a deluge of duty-free Mexican goods by a competitive labor.

With NAFTA, the study said, 1.11 billion U.S. dollars worth of Philippine products or about one-third of the country's total exports to the U.S., its largest export market, would compete directly with Mexican products.

The study identified products to be affected as textiles and apparel, television receivers and picture tubes, luggage, bags and handbags, footwear, dress globes, frozen pineapple concentrates, dolls, and sugar.

More to the dismay of the Philippine trade officials, the tariff on these goods from the Philippines ranges from 5 to 18.77 percent, while the average tariff for Mexican goods will be less than 4 percent.

The picture of inflow of direct investment from the U.S., the country's second largest investment source, also becomes dim, as investors are expected to see Mexico as an ideal gateway for exports to the U.S., the world's single largest market.

NAFTA provides that for exports to qualify for duty-free treatment, the goods should contain 60 percent local inputs, meaning the bulk of the products' raw materials should come from within the region or much of the processing should be done there.

This requirement "would force foreign suppliers to relocate to Mexico and thus divert investments away from the Philippines," the study said.

The best the Philippines could hope now is that NAFTA would not result in a dramatic drop in U.S. duties on Mexican exports because Mexico already enjoys a low tariff.

The government has also indicated that it will rely more on the association of Southeast Asian nations, which is also to implement a free trade area among its six members, to offset possible exports and investment losses to NAFTA.

### Taiwan Officials React to U.S. Approval

*OW1911071093 Taipei China Broadcasting Corporation News Network in Mandarin 2300 GMT 18 Nov 93*

[From the "Hookup" program]

[Excerpts] The U.S. House of Representatives approved the North American Free Trade Agreement on 17 November. The North American free trade zone may take effect in January.

Yang Shih-chieh, vice minister of economic affairs, said that NAFTA will not have a significant influence on our economic and trade situation in the short run. However, owing to the fact that some 80 percent of the products exported to the United States by our country and Mexico overlap, many of our country's industrial enterprises will face strong competition in the U.S. market.

A Finance Ministry official said that the outlook for Taiwan's trade with the United State may not be optimistic. [passage omitted]

(Li Kao-tsai), head of the Economic Research Department of the Council for Economic Planning and Development, said: In the short term, Taiwan businessmen's investments in mainland China and in the countries of Southeast Asia for producing items for export to the United States will not be hard hit by the agreement. [passage omitted]

### Moving Production Encouraged

*OW0212084593 Taipei Voice of Free China in English 0200 GMT 30 Nov 93*

[From the "News" program]

[Text] Implementation of the North America Free Trade Agreement could spell trouble for local exporters due to the similarities of some 80 percent of Taiwan's products with Mexico's, the Ministry of Economic Affairs has warned. NAFTA would integrate the economies of Canada, the United States, and Mexico into a single free trade zone. If NAFTA takes effect, tariffs on goods sold by the three countries would be significantly reduced.

The Economics Ministry has estimated that within the first 6 years after NAFTA takes effect, the total value of local export to the U.S. could fall by about $4.4 billion, a decline of 2.7 percent. In terms of Taiwan's worldwide export, this would reflect a drop of 0.8 percent.

The ministry indicated that in addition to its efforts to try to set up some kind of free trade agreement between the ROC [Republic of China] and U.S., the government will also encourage local exporters to set up more production lines in Mexico.

## Salinas, Colombian Presidential Candidate Samper Meet

*PA0512045293 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0435 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has met with Ernesto Samper, the Colombian Liberal Party presidential candidate, at Los Pinos Presidential Residence. President Salinas and Ernesto Samper, who is on a courtesy visit to Mexico, discussed issues of interest to both Mexico and Colombia and exchanged views on international topics.

Salinas and Samper also talked about the future prospects for Latin America in light of NAFTA's coming into force on 1 January 1994. They cited the possibilities of Colombia broadening trade relations with the new market, which comprises over 300 million people. Colombian writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Rodrigo Pardo, Samper's adviser, were also at the meeting.

## PRI's Colosio Promises To Defend Sovereignty

*PA0412180393 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 2 Dec 93*

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Luis Donaldo Colosio, presidential hopeful of the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI], said today in Sonora that his main commitment is the defense of Mexican sovereignty.

The people of Magdalena, Sonora, received the PRI presidential hopeful joyfully. Colosio, who is from Magdalena, arrived in his home town at 1415, Mexico City time. He did not hide he was moved by the welcome granted him by his fellow countrymen.

Accompanied by his parents, Luis Colosio and Ofelia Murrieta; his wife, Diana Laura Riojas; and his brothers; Luis Donaldo Colosio presided over a large rally in support of his nomination.

Colosio and his wife arrived at Hermosillo at approximately 1850. A few minutes later he left for Mexico City. Right now he is on his way from Sonora in a commercial airline plane. Colosio has invited the presidential candidates of other parties to hold a debate with him. Some of those candidates have already responded to his invitation.

## Yucatan Governor Resigns; PAN, PRI Candidates Comment

*PA0612001693 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 2 Dec 93*

[Report by Paloma Rivers; from the "Good Morning From Mexico" newscast]

[Text] During a heated session, the state's congress handed Yucatan Governor Dulce Maria Saury Riancho's resignation to the Commission for Government, Legislation, and Electoral Affairs, which will determine the genuineness of the document, which could be regarded as a letter that does not meet the legal requirements for a resignation. Some of the points include the motives for and a suitable explanation of the resignation. Government Secretary General Ricardo Avila Heredia will be acting governor.

[Begin Avila recording] [Words indistinct] Government of Yucatan State will be occupied by the secretary general of the state government, who will be acting governor... [shouts, cheers, and applause interrupt] until [words indistinct] of the State Constitution. [end recording]

Ana Rosa Payan Cervera, PAN [National Action Party] candidate to the governorship, commented on the resignation:

[Begin Payan Cervera recording] It is a consequence of and ratifies what I have just stated. She knows perfectly well that she is responsible for the elections. She is the state governor, and the electoral law makes her responsible for the entire electoral process. [end recording]

Payan Cervera announced PAN's plans and protest actions against the 28 November elections.

[Begin Payan Cervera recording] Look, PAN definitely won. Luis Correa Mena won. In this state, there was so much handling of the ballot boxes, votes, and electoral certificates that it was very similar to the elections in 1988, when the system fell and we never really knew who won. I can definitely assert, however, that Federico Granja Ricalde did not win. [end recording]

For his part, Federico Granja Ricalde, the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] candidate to the Yucatan governorship, said that PAN's accusations are not substantiated with valid evidence.

[Begin Granja Ricalde recording] They say it was fraudulent, but they present no evidence. They have mentioned two or three small things but not one piece of evidence to back them. We, as they, have the electoral certificates. We have stated: Let's open each and every electoral certificate package to confirm the results. It is very easy to generalize and say that everything is fraudulent when they do not have one single argument or any way of impugning anything, because all of their charges are false pressure strategies. [end recording]

## Guatemala

### Acting President: Defense Ministry To Protect Refugees

*PA0312165093 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 30 Nov 93 p 3*

[Text] Acting President Arturo Herbruger Asturias said yesterday that the Ministry of Defense must protect the refugees who will be arriving in the next few days in Ixcan, Quiche Department, from the camps in Quintana Roo, Campeche, and Chiapas.

The acting president noted that the refugees will settle in an area where guerrillas are, which will logically endanger their lives. This situation has prompted the Ministry of Defense to oppose settling refugees in Ixcan, Hebruger Asturias noted.

When asked about the actions the government will take under his leadership, the acting president said: "I do not have to do anything because I am only acting president," and showing his good sense of humor he cited the example that "acting means someone is entrusted with something he must immediately return, just as now I gave my military cap [cachucha] as a deposit and they keep it to return it to me when I ask."

Herbruger Asturias said the government is not irresponsible, as the defense minister claimed recently. He explained: "I understand the government decided this without perhaps knowing the existing situation there, although I believe an accord will be reached."

Given the possibility that the refugees' return may be manipulated, as some people have said, the acting president stated that "one does not know; it may well be and some people even say that the very guerrillas manipulated them to come at this time and settle precisely where they operate."

#### It Is Convenient That Quezada Attend Meeting

Regarding the rebels' acceptance of a secret and preliminary meeting with the government, according to the UN call, the president said: "It is good news because the meeting will be held and I hope the guerrillas also accept suspending hostilities in the face of talks because it is something indispensable."

Additionally, Herbruger Asturias called on Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno to participate in the meeting because, he said, "he is an intelligent and capable man, who I know personally." However, he recognized that the church is a disciplined institution in which if they decide he should not participate, he could not do so.

#### ODHA: Conditions Must Be Fulfilled

Meanwhile, the Archdiocesan Human Rights Office [Oficina de Derechos Humanos del Arzobispado—ODHA], through its president, Fernando Lopez, asked the Army and government in general to fulfill the accords on refugee return and respect the security conditions that must have been already fulfilled. He said that in this case only persons from cooperatives who own the land are returning because it is up to them to decide where they will go. He added one may not think the parties are acting irresponsibly because they have done a good job.

Lopez asserted that the ODHA will constantly monitor the refugee situation in the future in order to help them whenever it is necessary. However, he noted ODHA will not directly accompany refugees in their return.

Colonel Fabriel Rivas, DIDE [Information and Press Department of the Army] chief, reiterated on behalf of the Army that the military detachment will not be withdrawn, especially because in the last four days, one soldier was reported dead and seven others were listed as injured in the area due to the explosion of several Claymore mines.

Finally, he said the Army has been flexible regarding the refugees' return and predicted "some kind of disturbance" when the refugee caravan arrives from Mexico "because it is not easy, for strategic and tactical reasons, to transfer a detachment."

### Foreign Minister on 'Positive' Visit to U.S.

*PA0312233393 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Report on news conference by Foreign Minister Arturo Fajardo Maldonado with unidentified reporters in Guatemala City on 3 December; from the "Telepress" newscast—recorded]

[Text] Foreign Minister Arturo Fajardo Maldonado is back in the country after participating in the Caribbean Basin Initiative Conference in Miami. He also worked on the preparations for President Ramiro de Leon Carpio's visit to Washington.

[Fajardo] Basically, my trip to Miami was to coordinate President Ramiro de Leon's trip to Washington, where he and the other Central American presidents met with U.S. President Bill Clinton. I worked in organizing and preparing President de Leon's visit. As you know, he arrived in Miami on 29 November. As I had already announced, we held a preparatory coordination meeting with the Central American presidents to define a joint position for the meeting with President Clinton. After his meeting with President Clinton, which President de Leon has already reported on, we met again in Miami where the Central American presidents held an evaluation meeting. Basically, I was in charge of coordinating and organizing President de Leon's visit to Washington.

As you all know, it was a very positive visit, not only for the region, but for Guatemala and the Guatemalan Government. As you could see on television, President de Leon acted as spokesman for Central America, which is very significant for our country.

[Reporter] Could you tell us about the Caribbean Basin Initiative meeting?

[Fajardo] This was a regular meeting, which is held periodically. This time it was attended by the deputy economy minister, the president of the Bank of Guatemala, and delegates from the private sector representing various business organizations.

### URNG Describes President, Congress Agreement 'Scheme'

*PA0512044793 Paris AFP in Spanish 0005 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[Text] Guatemala City, 3 Nov [date as received] (AFP)—On 3 December the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) described the 16 November agreement between President Ramiro de Leon and Congress, which ended the "war" between the government branches, as "an absolute scheme and another trick to the people."

A URNG command document revealed in Guatemala City stated that the agreement, based on several "insubstantial and unimportant" constitutional reforms, "covers up a reshuffling of forces and a new distribution in the privatization of public services and state firms."

Highlighting the "isolation, discredit, and decline" in which President de Leon and his advisers have fallen, the rebels have asserted that the purge in Congress and the court requested by the president, which triggered the political crisis, was not enough and had to "include all the government organizations and branches."

Furthermore, in relation to the crisis, the manifesto observed "important contradictions" in the Guatemalan business hierarchy where several small groups "are trying to gain absolute control of the country."

The URNG also asserted that the Army's command staff is trying to break off the peace negotiations between the government and the guerrillas "and impose a military solution to the armed internal strife," which has claimed 150,000 lives and caused thousands of disappearances and kidnappings since 1960.

Lastly, the guerrilla command stated that the 30 January 1994 referendum, which was part of the agreement reached by the executive and the Congress, will not resolve the institutional, economic, and social crisis. The URNG has thus called Guatemalans to reject "the ploy" and "be protagonists" in the establishment of democracy and peace in the country.

## Honduras

### National Party Requests General Elections Recount

*PA0312021093 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2219 GMT 2 Dec 93*

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 2 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The National Party of Honduras [PNH], which lost the general elections on Sunday, today requested another vote count and threatened to challenge the results of the elections won by the Liberal Party of Honduras.

The PNH made the request at the National Electoral Tribunal [TNE]. The request was signed by Oswaldo Ramos Soto, the losing presidential candidate and president of the Central Committee of the ruling PHN.

Octavio Sanchez, the PNH representative at the TNE, said the request is based "on the many irregularities observed in the elections," including the alteration of vote tally sheets and the massive use of identification credentials authorized by the four legally registered parties, which according to him should be confirmed. He added there were municipal and departmental results, in which the PNH doubts the Liberal Party's victory. He mentioned the cases of Gracias a Dios Department and the municipalities of Pespire and Caridad in the southern part of the country, where the Liberal Party won by a small margin of votes.

The PNH does not question the overall victory of Carlos Roberto Reina, who won by a wide majority and will have total control over the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches, but it claims that if another vote count is conducted there could be a change in the Legislative Assembly.

Of the 128 deputies elected, 71 were from the Liberal Party. The PNH won 55 seats and the Social Democratic-Innovation and Unity Party [PINU-SD] was hardly able to keep the two seats it currently has.

According to the Electoral and Political Organization Law, a party may challenge the results of the elections within a 17-day period after the elections. The TNE must now respond to the PNH's request. Four political parties, three of them from the opposition, and a member of the Supreme Court are represented in the TNE.

The 28 November elections were the fourth consecutive elections held in this Central American country since 1981 after nearly 20 years of military regimes. The winner of the elections was Carlos Roberto Reina, a 67-year-old jurist.

### General Discua on Army Subordination to Government

*PA0312055793 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2231 GMT 2 Dec 93*

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 2 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Honduran Armed Forces Commander in Chief Luis Alonso Discua Elvir said today that members of the Armed Forces will remain subordinate to the new government headed by Carlos Roberto Reina, who will take office in January 1994. Gen. Discua said the Army, which traditionally has been linked to the National Party of Honduras, "must be subordinate to whoever assumes the Presidency," even if he is a member of the Liberal Party.

Commenting on last Sunday's elections, which were won by opposition candidate Reina, Discua Elvir said, "they were a real demonstration of civic-mindedness," but he went on to express his concern for the large amount of abstentionism among voters.

"During the past elections, Honduras showed that it is on the right path, and I hope the new administration will bring wellbeing to the majority of the Honduran people," Discua Elvir noted.

The military's participation in the general elections was limited to transporting the sealed ballot boxes because, according to the Constitution, soldiers are not allowed to vote.

### Military Subordinate to President

*PA0312134593 Tegucigalpa EL PERIODICO DE HONDURAS in Spanish 2 Dec 93 p 3*

[Text] Tegucigalpa [no date as published]—Honduran Armed Forces Commander General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir stated that the military will be subordinate to the new president of the country. Discua said all Hondurans, regardless of political affiliation, must work toward an ever better Honduras.

He said Honduras must prepare itself so its citizens may enjoy well-being in the next century. He stated: "The military will be subordinate to the president replacing Rafael Leonardo Callejas because we are loyal to Honduras' top authority as he represents the will of the people."

Discua said the Armed Forces have a constitutional mission which they will fulfill during the next administration, just as they did during the election process when the military institution demonstrated its professionalism and responsibility.

Discua he said he met with the presidential candidates prior to the elections so he has already met with the new chief of state. He noted: "We are part of Honduran society, and that is why we must not ignore what is happening because we are part of the Honduran state's policy."

He rejected the notion that the president may reduce the Armed Forces' budget by noting that the institution has a definite income.

## Nicaragua

### Economy Minister Promises No New Taxes for 1994

*PA0412151193 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 Dec 93 p 5*

[Article by Roberto Larios]

[Text] Yesterday Finance Minister Emilio Pereira promised not to levy new taxes in 1994 in order to send a "clear message" to the economic sectors that would allow the reactivation and growth of production. Pereira made this announcement during a breakfast meeting with directors of the nation's principle media.

The economy minister, accompanied by Foreign Cooperation Minister Erwin Kruger and Central Bank President Evenor Taboada, explained the fiscal policy framework to be applied during the coming year. The 1994 fiscal policy will be aimed at reducing the purchase of non-essential goods to reorient these resources for social services, public administration, the financing of production activities, and a better distribution of state spending.

Pereira acknowledged that the economy's growth fell 0.5 percent this year, thereby putting off his promise for a 2.5 percent growth in production until 1994. Pereira assured that "just by realizing the coffee harvest" this year, calculated at over 1 million quintals, the nation will have assured a 2 percent growth. This is particularly true now that there is talk of over $100-per-quintal prices as a result of the retention policy approved by the Latin American coffee producers.

Although he justified the need to reduce state expenses, which he assured is 40 percent of the economy, by reducing the number of government workers, he denied that the government plans to fire 10,000 employees. The Nicaraguan Government currently employs 65,000 workers of which 33,000 are teachers, and over 20,000 work in the health sector. Pereira assured that the reduction in the government work force will be around 3,000 to 4,000 workers who will be sent home through a "voluntary retirement" program. This program provides for compensations of up to 36 months salary for those with greater seniority.

When questioned about measures to be applied in 1994 to stimulate the reactivation of production, the ministers indicated that some of the policies aimed at this goal will be to broaden the base of the producers benefited by credits, tariff protection on approximately 600 to 700 local products, an industrial reconversion program, and the reduction of bureaucratic obstacles.

Pereira reported that the government has decided to continue the fiscal benefits to the non-traditional exporters included in the so-called "Tax Bond Certificates " [Certificados de Bonos Tributarios].

Meanwhile, Foreign Cooperation Minister Erwin Kruger assured that 1994 "will be a good year," as he counts on more than $700 million to finance the economy. Of this, $300 million are "back-log" cooperation; that is, obtained during previous years for projects that have not been implemented. Kruger asked for the media's support during a Nicaragua Donors' Community meeting to be held on 15 December in Managua. More than 20 nations are expected to participate in this meeting.

The ministers justified the broadening of the so-called Luxury Tax as part of the policy aimed at reorienting spending toward production and jobs.

Meanwhile, Central Bank President Evenor Taboada reported that the economic policy reorientation is also linked to the signing of agreements with multilateral organizations that are currently negotiating with the government. Taboada noted that the "first phase" of the work by the IMF and the World Bank mission concluded yesterday.

This work consisted of a detailed "revision" of the government's economic numbers. Now, the "formal" negotiations will begin, consisting of a discussion of the base of the agreement with the multilateral organizations.

In response to a participant's question, Pereira noted that there are no plans to levy taxes on the import of new technical equipment for the media.

## UNO Announces Position on 1994 Budget Bill

*PA0512160893 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 30 Nov 93*

[From the "Five O'Clock Sharp" newscast]

[Text] Today the UNO [National Opposition Union] parliamentary bloc announced at the National Assembly its position regarding the draft budget bill for 1994 presented by President Chamorro.

First, UNO said that beginning with Executive Decree 341-92 issued by President Chamorro on 29 December 1992 various articles of the current Constitution have been violated, including the article on separation of state powers. Since this Executive Decree illegally and arbitrarily dismissed the former board of directors of the National Assembly, the UNO bloc has not participated in the presentation, discussion, and approval of laws because the current board is illegal and illegitimate. Therefore, all legislative actions that are being carried out at this time are illegal.

Second, the budget bill for 1994 has major flaws according to what the Constitution and the budget law stipulate. No reasons are given to justify the budget policies for that period; the logic behind the 1994 economic program; the fiscal policy in the context of the economic program; and the prospects and analyses of revenues from various sources and expenditures according to their distribution, as required by Article 21 of the budget law. The 1994 budget bill does not have a rational explanation of the programs for each governmental organization or the projects that will be carried out. It does not contain any details regarding the sale of Army helicopters and weapons or the allocation and use of the funds received from the sale.

Although the government continues to privatize state assets and enterprises illegally, the budget bill does not include information on revenues received from this activity or the allocation or use of those funds. There is no information on expenditures and investment budgets for autonomous and public service organizations such as the Nicaraguan Institute of Energy, the Nicaraguan Aqueducts and Sewage Institute, the Nicaraguan Communications and Postal Services Institute, and so on. It is necessary to know the budgets for these organizations even if the National Assembly is not required to approve them. Along the same line, companies associated with the Army do not report their incomes. In addition, no records exist on the amount and use of resources generated by companies associated with organizations that are included in the budget, such as the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] and others. Such income should be handed in to the Finance Ministry to be included as part of the national budget. The National Assembly has not been informed of transfers of budget allocations and incidental expenses as required by Article 32 of the budget law.

Third, by analyzing the budget bill we can see that under the personal services category for each branch and ministry, the corresponding itemization of salaries according to positions for either officials or public employees is missing. Thus, there is no way for Nicaraguans to know exactly the total amount for salaries or the number of employees, so they cannot know the cost of running the public sector. Allocations to the Defense Ministry—226,160,219 cordobas—and the Government Ministry, 220,150,554—represent 16 percent of the national budget while allocations for three state branches—Legislative, 25,260,564; Judicial, 45,475,197; and Electoral, 45,554,102—only represent 26 percent of the allocations to the two militarized ministries. These differences reveal this government's political will.

The 1994 budget bill assigns to the Defense and the Government Ministries an allotment of 10 million cordobas each for incidental expenses in contrast to 9 million to the Comptroller's Office and 9.5 million for the Attorney General's Office. These differences show that this government is not willing to check and control the administrative corruption that plagues it. The budget bill index includes the Presidency as a category, but in the general text this category appears as a Presidency Ministry program, which in budget terms shows that the Presidency Ministry absorbs this expenditure and receives a larger allocation than the Presidency itself. In addition, the budget for the Presidency Ministry is 48 million, which is larger than the allocations assigned to the three state branches: Legislative, Judicial, and Executive.

The consolidation of democracy in Nicaragua cannot be achieved if these three state branches do not receive enough funds, which is essential and necessary for them to be truly independent. Consequently, the total of the budgets assigned to the three state branches must be large enough to allow the proper performance of their functions. It is impossible to fight corruption when a meager budget is allocated to the Comptroller General's Office.

Allocations for publicity and propaganda for the Presidency Ministry must be reduced significantly since it is unjustifiable considering the harsh economic situation in Nicaragua. EPS allocations also should be reduced and those for the Education Ministry increased, since teachers' salaries are inhumanly low. The Presidency Ministry's allocation for confidential expenses—8 million cordobas, which is unjustifiable—is used among other things to buy the minds and consciences of Nicaraguans, thereby corrupting the autonomy of the state branches and political institutions.

Signed by Parliamentarian Bloc, National Opposition Union, UNO.

## * FSLN Privatization Law Debated

### * Death Threats Criticized

*94CA0041A Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 10 Nov 93 p 4*

[Commentary by Francisco Bravo Lacayo]

[Text] In responsible sectors of Sandinism the bitter discussion about the Public Enterprises Privatization Regulation Law introduced in the National Assembly by the Sandinist Front bench has aroused deep concern.

Recognizing that the bill is "controversial," Dr. Ramirez Mercado and those who worked with him in drafting this bill cite the urgent need for a law to regulate the accelerated privatization begun very early by the current government. The bill also prohibits the privatization of essential public services like health care and education, which should remain the state's responsibility.

We know that the government has privatized over 300 companies, which in the past were state enterprises, in compliance with a policy which the IMF [International Monetary Fund] imposed. First, it drained capital from these companies, and then sold them at rock-bottom prices, to the economic detriment of the nation.

In this confusion, workers in some companies, after putting up a fight, managed to obtain the famous 25 percent of the company shares. In our view, this has to date produced little or no benefit to the workers, but has instead created problems by fostering managerial attitudes in some leaders afflicted by the disease of greed.

Aside from this marginal issue, the matter is urgent, as the privatization of TELCOR [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services], health care, education, etc., is on the government's agenda. If there is no regulatory law requiring that everything be done with the National Assembly's participation in order to avoid mismanagement and arbitrariness, privatization will be done at the whim of sharks who hope to gobble up what has cost the working people so much.

There is nothing wrong with this law. On the contrary, it may promote the transparency we really need in the management of state affairs.

The reasons used by the opponents of the Regulatory Law are a bit obscure and allow glimpses of some shady interests concealed under the guise of "protecting the workers," when it is a sad reality that, more than anything else, they are interested in getting a mouthful for their empty stomachs.

Worst of all are the death threats against Sandinist deputies and some journalists, who are being reviled as "traitors," thus reviving a senseless and highly negative radicalism. Such attitudes reveal the irresponsibiity and immaturity of those making these threats, allowing glimpses of their crudeness.

Both Daniel Ortega and Sergio Ramirez have said it is possible to reconcile views and work together to resolve the dispute. We hope these words may become a reality.

Not for a moment must we lost sight of the approach of a period of electoral agitation. Before that time comes, the revolutionaries have to, (they must) present a solid and united front to defeat those who are against the people.

### * Violations to Constitution

*94CA0041B Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 10 Nov 93 p 13*

[Commentary by Nathan Sevilla]

[Text] An intense debate is raging about whether Nicaragua should allow the privatization of public services which are essential to the people and of natural resources which are national property (according to Article 102 of the Constitution).

So far the privatization carried out by the government has affected APP [People's Ownership Section] lands, state industrial enterprises (some of a commercial type), and mass transport companies. These privatizations could not be blocked by the National Assembly by passing a law, as there was no majority consensus among the 92 deputies. This is a policy imposed by the government, to which the workers responded by demanding participation in the process; if not, everything would go into the hands of individual capitalists.

But the government has continued privatizing without anyone's control, acting to help private individuals, and favoring an almost gratuitous turnover of state properties, under the mantle of the "Concertacion" [Coalition] I and II agreements. The weakness of the popular movement and the National Assembly began during the time following the 1990 elections, and the right made maximum use of that period to implement its neoliberal policies.

Now they are trying to put up for sale natural resources and basic services which are essential to the Nicaraguan people. Privatizing means selling these resources and services forever; it is the state's renunciation of its right to reap the benefit of profits from TELCOR [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services], INE [Nicaraguan Institute of Energy], INAA [Nicaraguan Waterworks and Sewer Systems Institute], mines, forests, and marine resources, and burdening the famished people with rates that have tripled, all for the benefit of these new private owners.

#### The Door Must Not Be Left Open

Leaving in a regulatory law the possibility of privatizing natural resources and basic services is declaring one's impotence to defend national sovereignty. Such actions should be categorically prohibited in that law, by stating which sectors may not be privatized.

The state has gotten rid of an important part of our public property with what has already been privatized. If it

continues privatizing, this sector would disappear, in violation of Article 103 of the Constitution: "The state guarantees the democratic coexistence of the forms of public, private, cooperative, associative, and community property...."

Articles 98 and 99 Cn. [Constitution] cited in the prefatory rationale for the bill submitted to the National Assembly on 5 November speak of "improving the people's living conditions and making a more just distribution of wealth" (Article 98 Cn.) and of "ensuring and protecting the interests of the masses and of moving toward the objectives of economic and social progress (99 Cn)." This does not suggest that the door should be left open for the possibility of privatizing public services or natural resources.

Article 102 Cn. states that "natural resources are national property." How can we sell this national heritage without doing violence to the Constitution? Article 103 Cn. itself only authorizes the state to "enter into contracts for the rational exploitation of these resources when the national interest so requires." It is clear that they may not be privatized, and that only temporary contracts or licenses may be awarded which will benefit the nation.

*Article 1 of this bill* "establishes the judicial-legal framework which regulates actions of total or partial and permanent or temporary alienation of property or the imposition of charges and fees on state enterprises or institutions that provide public services to the population, or on their assets."

**The Alternative: Signing Contracts**

Instead, legislation should prohibit privatizing the services of education, health care, energy and petroleum, drinking water, telecommunications and postal services, ports and airports, forests, mines and cement, road construction and transportation, customs, sports and recreation, the communications media, and the storage of basic grains, which are listed in Article 2 of the bill.

Then, if privatization is prohibited, what could be left to be regulated by law? The contracts mentioned in Article 102 Cn. for the exploitation of resources for the nation's benefit.

The Foreign investments Law already regulates such contracts, always in the national interest, without alienating the nation's property forever. Through those contracts an investor takes part in Nicaragua's economic development, recovers his investment and obtains his profits within a term stipulated in the contract itself. If the investor wishes to continue, he will sign new contracts.

National investors, whether individuals or groups, would also have to comply with the legal requisites in order to safeguard the national interests and to have a process that is transparent to the people. To date these contracts have been treated as an Executive secret, giving rise to corruption.

Finally, it is wise to issue a warning about contracts or licenses, for if they are not approved by the National Assembly, the Executive could issue them under conditions disadvantageous to the nation. For example, if issued for many years, that is a form of covert privatization. Furthermore, each license should require a prior environmental impact study, and the state should be given its fair share of the profits as a coinvestor.

## * Preserve Basic Services

*94CA0041C Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Nov 93 p 11*

[Commentary by Emmett Lang Salmeron]

[Text] We Sandinists have been debating the "nonprivatization of basic services." We have written, said, and leaked information to the media which, in part, has not been educational or true.

One of those articles, published in BARRICADA, says that "...The real debate is between two differing political positions about how to convert Sandinism into an option for power; the debate on privatization is not the indepth debate."

This cannot be Sandinism's in-depth reason for supporting and defending popular positions. The fundamental reason for being a revolutionary party is not to take power, it is to fight for the well-being of the people, whether or not the party is in power. But if in order to defend the people's interests "popularity" must be sacrificed, then as revolutionaries, we are obliged to pay that cost.

Supporting positions out of considerations of power, image, or any thing other than the people's interests is demagoguery.

Converting power, and not the people, the nation, the homeland, into an end of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], is opportunistic behavior.

The only real and lasting thing is that the discussion is not between two comrades: it is not between Daniel [Ortega] and Sergio [Ramirez]. It is really between two positions, about how to defend the people's interests effectively. Some comments. It was said that the *Privatization Law* was drafted and introduced because:

**The Bill and Its Disadvantages**

- 1. *The government is privatizing too freely, without any regulation.*

If a law has sufficient force to determine the transparency and viability of the privatization process, *then through the force of law it must prevent the privatization of those things which the people's interests need and demand not be privatized.*

The nonprivatization which the FNT [National Workers Front] demands for education, health care, and social welfare is a constitutional precept and a principle of the

FSLN's political program. This is binding upon all Nicaraguans, and doubly so for Sandinists, the historic defenders of the people's interests and democratic interests.

- 2. *This bill is being presented because of pressures from international organizations to complete the privatization of basic services.*

As a patriotic Nicaraguan and Sandinist, it is an inescapable duty to defend national sovereignty and self-determination.

According to the Constitution: "...Any foreign interference in the internal affairs of Nicaragua or any attempt to diminish those rights is an attack upon the lives of the people."

- 3. *If there is a law, that ensures compliance.*

We must be realistic and realize what country we are living in and the little importance which this government attaches to the law, much less to the force of justice, ethics, and morality.

**No Privatization of Basic Services**

An example. In the presidential decree rescinding the transportation decree, the merits of what the transportation workers sought were recognized. However, those "just" demands continue to be disregarded. The country will have to pay the price of another general strike in order for these "just demands" attested by the National Assembly's Transportation Committee and guaranteed by the President of the National Assembly and the President of the Republic to be heeded.

- 4. *Only a law will guarantee "transparency and ensure that such actions do not sprout from the seeds of government corruption."*

The chaotic situation in Nicaragua is the product of a savage and dehumanized economic plan and of the misuse of the resources produced and obtained.

- 5. *There is no contradiction between the people's struggle and this bill.*

How many Nicaraguans are without jobs, without sources of income, and without a future? Among the PEA [Economically Active Population], of each 100 people, 60 do not have jobs. These citizens have constitutional rights allowing their children to go to school and giving them access to health care, rights which are stated as an obligation in the Constitution.

*These are the last rights left* to the 80 percent of the Nicaraguan people who live in poverty. Can this 80 percent pay for education, health care, water, and electricity?

Basic education is compulsory and free, with access open to all, according to the Constitution.

- 6. *To upgrade the quality and efficiency of customs.*

I do not know how they are thinking of privatizing customs, but when I was a child I learned that one of the major achievements of the Liberal Revolution of Zelaya was "the nationalization of customs." Perhaps by going back to the last century we will advance further.

Finally, if there really is going to be a law, it must clearly mandate that basic services may not be privatized.

**Let us protect the Nicaraguan people from hunger.**

## * Privatization Law, People's Struggle Coincide

*94CA0037B Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 5 Nov 93 p 11*

[Commentary by Sandinist Deputy Carlos Gallo]

[Text] The weakening of the bill, already begun, to regulate and control the privatization process of the nation's state enterprises must be done carefully without succumbing to the temptation to falsify reality.

Our reason for presenting this bill is that in response to pressures from international financial organizations—which are urging the government to complete the privatization of sensitive economic activities like energy, petroleum, drinking water, telecommunications and postal services, ports, airports, shipping, mines, customs, and the media—the nation needs a law to ensure the openness and viability of these privatization processes.

The Constitution and ordinary laws do not prevent the government from privatizing; it is free to do so. It is important to note that 60 percent of the state enterprises have already been privatized, and the people do not know the destination of their resources and the legal protections afforded.

There is no contradiction between the people's struggle and this bill, since the bill's essence is to require the government to demonstrate its reasons for engaging in privatization and to persuade the citizens of the economic and social benefits that such privatization would bring the nation. This law allows the people to express their views on the future of basic services, so that the people's interests may prevail.

Our bill requires the government to make clear what powers it reserves to control rates, the expansion and quality of services provided to the consumer, and also the obligations of the private businessman in the event of nonperformance.

It is not against the people's interests to demand openness and legality in privatization processes, to combat corruption and economic fraud. The bill states that under no circumstances will state officials with political responsibilities and the permanent staff or consultants involved in preparing technical and economic studies of the assets to be privatized be eligible to participate in these privatizations.

It also prohibits relatives within the fourth degree of consanguinity and the second degree of relationship by marriage of the persons listed above from profiting from

privatizations. What is against the interests of the people's struggle is to deprive the people of a law protecting the nation's resources. In today's circumstances, rejecting this law means going along with the government.

The government has already stated its opposition to this bill. Why should we go along with the government, giving it a free hand? If the government has already decided to privatize, what is an effective instrument to avoid privatization? I think this instrument is a law requiring the government to submit its plans to the National Assembly, so that this forum may determine whether to approve or reject these privatization plans. A law backed up by popular mobilization is the correct way to protect the people's interests.

This is not an in-depth debate on Sandinism; that is only a pretext. The real debate is between two differing political positions about how to convert Sandinism into an option for power. This debate is the one we need to undertake responsibly in order to decide how the differences we are experiencing as a revolutionary party should be resolved.

## * Outlook for Successful Dialogue Debated

### * Consensus Unrealistic

*04CA0038A Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Oct 93 p 14*

[Commentary by Alvaro Martinez Cuenca]

[Text] U.S. foreign policy, in the case of Nicaragua, is still on the wrong track because of its failure to provide adequate and timely support to the true forces and processes of democracy in this country, its lack of understanding of our situation and political culture, and its failure to acknowledge the United States' moral and financial responsibility with respect to Nicaragua, because of the serious errors in its foreign policy on Nicaragua.

In saying this we do not wish to hide the fact that we Nicaraguans are primarily to blame for our tragedy, but the United States must also share much of the blame. The undersecretary of state for Latin American affairs, Alexander F. Watson, official spokesman for U.S. policy on Latin America, was right when he stated that Nicaragua's problems must be solved among Nicaraguans, not in Washington.

In recent testimony on Nicaragua before the Subcommittee on Hemispheric Affairs in Washington, however, he threatened that if Nicaraguan politicians do not reach a broad national consensus on how to resolve the crisis, the United States will forget about Nicaragua, and we will lose the participation of the international community.

A country that is trying to promote U.S. democratic values throughout the world is imposing on a country's democratic forces a consensus that means giving the Sandinists veto power in the democratic process. It entails accepting a status quo that is not viable, that is holding the country hostage, and that has pushed it to its limits socially, economically, and morally.

We are seeing a continuation of the history of wrongheaded interference by the United States, fraught with military interventions, support for dictators, betrayal of those dictators, political naivete by the Carter Democrats in supporting Marxist-Leninists, criminal irresponsibility by the Republican administration in waging a low-intensity war that did not solve the military-political crisis but contributed to the militarization, polarization, and destruction of the country.

A consensus is something reached by equals, balanced forces; it is inappropriate, naive, and irresponsible to expect a consensus when one of the forces has taken over the country militarily, constitutionally, and politically, and that force has not shown any sign of mending its ways, abandoning the power it lost in the elections, or setting aside its own interests for the sake of the nation.

Consensus cannot be substituted for the loftiest democratic value, the will of the majority. This attempt is being made because the will of the majority does not suit the purposes of the powers that be, and the United States is acting as an accomplice in this antidemocratic policy.

Mr. Watson, who is completely ignorant of the circumstances in Nicaragua, speaks of the great progress that Dona Violeta's government has made. He forgets, however, that it has not been enough to prevent the failure of a government that, though elected democratically, is not being maintained in a democratic manner. This government is now being rejected by the same majority that voted for Dona Violeta. In three years, it has been unable to reactivate production, create jobs, restore public order, or carry out justice.

The political leaders are not the only ones to blame for the national paralysis that Watson mentions; it is also due to a lack of government, and to the government's inability to bring about a reconciliation based on justice, order, and civilian authority over military authority.

What the United States should support is democratic values like popular consultation. The crisis can be overcome by asking the people whether they support the present government or whether they want a new constitution so that the crisis can be resolved against a new backdrop with new political actors. Nicaragua cannot take three more years of business as usual.

Ironically, Watson was right when he said that President Chamorro broke with a deeply rooted tradition in Nicaragua (and in all countries of the world), the tradition of winners and losers, because now it turns out that the winners (the majority of the people) became the losers and the losers (the Sandinists) became the winners, thanks to a family-owned government that has lost its popular legitimacy. She lost touch with her political base, and she is practicing reconciliation with a single sector that is keeping her in power.

### * Commitment to Concessions

*94CA0038B Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 29 Oct 93 p 14*

[Commentary by Cristiana Chamorro B.]

[Text] The National Dialogue, like the *gueguense* [person suffering from goiter], has two faces. One of these faces looks ghastly. This is a widely held opinion that we cannot ignore, especially when those on the LA PRENSA political desk, Chepe, Roger, Denis, and Ariel, invite us every day to speculate on the most recent statements by the latest politician to be interviewed by them.

According to them, "the political despair" of the moment revolves around the alleged stagnation of the National Dialogue, which some say began in May, but in fact has not yet begun. This is a valid judgment considering the time invested in the dialogue, the expectations raised at its onset, and the whole idea of a dialogue, awaited like a great event, perhaps like a moving and serious theatrical production, with a tragic beginning and a happy ending.

Six months of talks between various parties—the government and the National Opposition Union (UNO), the UNO and the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), the FSLN and the government—without any apparent results, would disappoint anyone. Evidence of this can be found in the mass media, which at first devoted a great deal of space to the dialogue, and now hardly mention it, relegating it at best to a little column on the inside pages.

It is true that the failure to reach the expected agreements delegitimizes the decision to engage in dialogue, delays the installation of democratic institutions, and reinforces intransigence. The political forces' legitimacy is at stake, and reaching political consensus, which for them is just one more political battle, while for the majority of citizens, including mothers and children, who have no voice in the dialogue, it may mean the hope of less poverty, more employment, and real safety for the citizenry.

Nevertheless, the National Dialogue also shows another face when it is seen as a process without a starting or ending date, when we understand it as the institutionalization of a mechanism for addressing differences and achieving mutual concessions. In short, it is an instrument of democracy for reaching minor compromises to give Nicaragua a great opportunity for political stability.

That other, undoubtedly less publicized, facet of the dialogue, which has a dynamic appropriate to a political "crisis," continues to progress discreetly alongside that other dialogue that is stagnated or has not yet begun. For example, the agreements reached by the UNO and the FSLN could be considered a timid expression of that other face of the National Dialogue, which wants to become the dominant one and erase the perception of intransigence fostered by the face that is better known to the public and is also more tedious.

Although these forces could not go as far as the country needs them to, the important thing is that they began talking, and of course, that they were able to recognize each other's willingness to give Nicaragua a chance for stability based on the acceptance of legitimate interests. It is not a question of betting on heads or tails, but of encouraging the better face, the more hopeful face of the dialogue. The negative perception of the dialogue should give way to the perception that it is possible and generally positive.

After six months of formal talks at square tables, informal talks in hallways, talks with international observers, and secret talks, the bottlenecks preventing understanding are on the table. What is needed is reasonable political concessions among those who are truly interested in coexisting within a common national project. The fact that the Clinton administration, standing on the sidelines, has indicated that the solution to Nicaragua's problems should not be sought in Washington but within the framework of an understanding among Nicaraguans, confirms that today, more than ever, the conditions are right for achieving major objectives.

These possibilities for agreement demand that the government, the moderate sectors of the UNO, the moderate groups of the FSLN, and those in the center renew their political will. Translated into a hypothetical political chess game, this means that the government must prepare to carry out a receptive and participative effort with sectors of the UNO, the FSLN, the center, and the silent majority who really want a national accord.

It also means that the moderate parties of the UNO will have to break away from the extremists and be more aggressive in staking out their positions, as the Christian Democratic Union (UDC) did yesterday. In the FSLN, the democratic Sandinists will have to step up their efforts within the party to forge a clear stand in favor of democracy.

Only in this way will we achieve agreements that will change the dynamics of the country's political life, especially in the National Assembly, which needs to be normalized so that new ideas, new laws, and constitutional reforms can emerge. Only then will Nicaragua be able to make a qualitative leap forward on the path toward stability and democratic consolidation.

### * Foreign Aid Link

*94CA0038C Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Nov 93 p 12*

[Commentary by Arturo J. Cruz, Jr.]

[Text] Between the second half of 1979 and the first half of 1982, Nicaragua received nearly $1.6 billion in economic aid, plus the advantages of a magnificent renegotiation of its foreign debt. The "Free World," anxious to avoid the supposed mistakes it had made with Cuba, laid bridges to Nicaragua and provided the appropriate cooperation. At least in those early years, the illusion of a new kind of revolution led the "Free World" to treat the Sandinists generously.

In 1980 and 1981, the national economy grew by 4.6 percent and 5.4 percent, respectively. These figures could

be explained partly by the base year from which growth was measured, 1979, the last year of the war against the last Somoza regime, when the economy shrank by 24.5 percent. The engine of growth during those years, however, was the influx of foreign resources that financed extraordinary levels of imports associated with consumption. This was a growth without capital formation that did nothing to bolster the productive apparatus.

Something similar occurred recently. Thanks to the surprising election results in February 1990, Nicaragua was able to create a second illusion for the international community, the development of an inclusive democracy that would bury the worst traits of its political culture. Between 1990 and 1992, the country received a net flow of $1.7 billion. And the national economy, though it did not grow, at least arrested the downward trend of the 1980's and managed to anchor the exchange rate and achieve price stability.

Just as in 1979-82, however, there was no productive reactivation this time. Net aid went to cover ordinary expenses and to pay for most imports. The government's crowning achievement, three percent inflation in 1992, could be attributed to a moribund, barely breathing economy. Unemployment reached an estimated 60 percent of the labor force.

In mid-1993, donors got tired of 15 years of investing in a hopeless country. The international community has ceased to be swayed by the two illusions that had guaranteed Nicaragua's survival—that of a new kind of revolution and that of an inclusive democracy—as evidenced by the decreased aid for 1993 and 1994.

Under these difficult circumstances, it is understandable that Nicaraguans have fallen into a fatalistic attitude about the nation's viability. The only other time such despair reigned was during the 30-plus years of anarchy right after our independence.

Fatalism inexorably leads to cynicism. If the nation is not viable, if it does not work for everyone, the most obvious alternative (other than emigrating) is to seek personal survival. In this state of mind, citizens can easily lose all vestiges of decency and succumb to the "culture of gimme" ["cultura del arrebato"].

Nicaragua has been left without an honorable trade, with no means of earning a living in a world that is becoming increasingly competitive. Lacking an honorable trade, in desperation, the country may resort to shadier enterprises: drug trafficking, accepting capital without inquiring about its origins, plundering our ecological patrimony, serving as a dumping ground for nuclear waste. Even the power struggle and the scramble for public funding can become more intense; the government may not be the pork barrel it used to be, given the decline in foreign aid, but government and politics are still the country's primary economic activity.

In the short and medium term, as economist Mario de Franco has said, there is no technical solution to the economic crisis, at least not with the amounts of foreign aid we are slated to receive. If Nicaragua is to have any hope for the near future, it needs a window of opportunity like the one it had between 1990 and 1992. Even if we had a cabinet shakeup, the community of donors would not be willing to revise the amount of aid. After all, it can be argued that the stabilization plan worked just fine, it was the country that did not respond.

In the future, aid from the United States (the principal contributor for the last three years) will be very modest. So modest that there is no longer any question of its "fixing" the country. These aid programs, rather than seeking macroeconomic stability, should be oriented toward emergency operations that will alleviate the daily despair of the poor. When the United States designed its aid program for Somalia, it did not think about the balance of payments or the fiscal budget of that tragic African country. Its main thought was to alleviate the famine among the country's inhabitants.

Although the images coming out of Nicaragua do not have the dramatic impact of those from Somalia, the poverty here has become so widespread, and the possibility of technical solutions for the economy as a whole so remote, that what little aid we receive in the future will have to focus on the country's poor.

Because Nicaragua cannot continue earning a living from politics, and because the solutions available are long-term ones, if the dialogue in which the political class is engaged is oriented toward strengthening the country's fragile institutions, that is all to the good. No doubt the communication between the politicians of the National Opposition Union (UNO) and those of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) is necessary so that they and the government can study the best way to readjust the powers of an imperial presidency, try to draft a military law that is more in step with the times, and resolve the fundamental dispute over property ownership. All of these efforts are aimed at moving forward in the great task that this nation faces during the next three years: guaranteeing electoral continuity.

But if the dialogue is intended to arrive at subtle formulas for "dumping the government," Nicaragua will be sentenced to the prison of a political culture in which personal calculations have wiped out what little progress has been made toward institutionality in this country. In the final analysis, the survival of this already reformed government may be the only thing that can save Nicaragua from greater chaos and give its citizens the luxury of free elections in 1996.

## * BARRICADA, Freedom of Expression Praised

*94CA0037A Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 3 Nov 93 p 11*

[Commentary by Guillermo Rothschuh Villanueva]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

### BARRICADA: A Sandinist Test?

We must recognize BARRICADA's enormous merit. It was the last periodical to arise from the war, with a name

that invokes popular struggle, with a pro-government slant in its opinions. Now it is coming to be—despite the opposition of some militants—the leading pro-government member of the Nicaraguan media to put aside its propagandizing tactics and strategies in order to try to become an informative, respectful, pluralist, and tolerant newspaper. BARRICADA is the first national experiment of its type. The others have perished without even attempting the radical metamorphosis undertaken by this partisan newspaper.

Some people want the project to abort. I think those who are counting on this are wrong. For many people, BARRICADA is the most important political test of postelection Sandinism. They assume that as BARRICADA changes, it will provide a clearer vision of the type of changes with which Sandinism may experiment internally.

The depth of BARRICADA's transformations is a powerful indicator for measuring the rate and intensity of the democratization process that the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] may promote politically. From a journalistic angle, the changes in BARRICADA are oriented toward expanding Sandinism's sphere of influence and stimulating the national debate beyond the partisan arena. This may not be clearly perceived by some Sandinists who fiercely oppose the current redefinition of this newspaper.

As BARRICADA takes off and becomes more deeply involved in a pluralist context, it opens up a range of possibilities for challenging the hegemony of the nation's other political and social sectors. It increases its efficacy by improving its credibility as a means of information. This is a highly persuasive demonstration of partisan flexibility and courage on the part of the FSLN.

Without abandoning their principles, dreams, and hopes, the media in Nicaragua must commit themselves to tolerance, dissent, democracy, and pluralism. Asking them to abandon their political views or ideological beliefs would be asking them to commit suicide, to become eunuchs. I am no friend of castration, nor do I support verbal and symbolic violence, which has recently caused many of the media in Nicaragua to act more like organs of propaganda and discord than as instruments committed to democratic institutions.

The current challenge facing the media is to contribute fully toward achieving a true national understanding as soon as possible. That is their most important and urgent goal. There is no other alternative. Nicaragua needs this, and there is no time to lose.

## Panama

### Reports Conflict on Arrival of Escobar Family

*PA0412012393 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[From the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] Panamanian authorities denied today that the wife of former drug lord Pablo Escobar Gaviria is in Panama. Immigration Department Director Antonio Dominguez has neither confirmed nor denied, however, the stay of the drug trafficker's wife and children in our country. The Colombian Gaviria family arrived at Tocumen Airport today, and airport sources reported that it could be the wife of deceased Medellin Cartel drug lord Pablo Escobar Gaviria. Antonio Dominguez commented on the matter, but he refused to cite details.

[Begin Dominguez recording] I just do not know who were the people that entered the country. I know that four or five people with the Gaviria surname arrived, but I do not believe that is important. If it is his wife, she has to be left alone. She must be going through some very sad times. The entire world wanted her husband to be arrested or executed, and he has already been executed; so this is a closed chapter. [end recording]

We cannot discard the possibility that the people were Gaviria's relatives because the security measures at Tocumen International Airport were quite unusual. RPC Television received information, however, that Mrs. Victoria Henao de Gaviria, wife of the drug trafficker, and her children are in Colombia.

[Hamburg DPA in Spanish at 2354 GMT on 3 December transmits an 80-word report from Panama City that nine members of the late Medellin Cartel leader Pablo Escobar Gaviria arrived today in Panama from Colombia. The report adds that Immigration Department Director Antonio Dominguez confirmed to DPA the presence of Escobar's family, but he said he did not know who they were and that he was not interested. The report stated that he said they would be staying in Panama for four or five days.]

### Endara, Colombia Seek Investigation Into Escobar Funds

*PA0512215393 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 4 Dec 93 p 1a*

[Report by Juan Manuel Diaz and Arnulfo Barroso; quotation marks as published]

[Excerpts] Relatives of slain drug trafficker Pablo Escobar Gaviria arrived in Panama yesterday. At the same time, the Colombian Government and President Guillermo Endara himself requested acting Attorney General Jorge Valdes to initiate an investigation into the former Medellin Cartel chief's possible bank accounts in Panamanian banks. Endara was reacting to an "EL SIGLO" newspaper article reporting on the existence of 200 million balboas in Panama owned by Escobar Gaviria. I have no reports on the existence of such funds; as such, we suggest that the Attorney General's Office should begin an investigation into the issue, the president stated. [no quotation marks as published]

The Executive Branch head said that constitutional dispositions bar him from unilaterally initiating an investigation into the issue and he "clearly confers this faculty to the Attorney General's Office."

At the same time, Colombian Ambassador in Panama Alfonso Araujo Cotes has disclosed that his country's prosecutor general had requested that the Panamanian attorney general locate possible accounts owned by Pablo Escobar. The diplomat has said that Colombia's interest is to seize all of the funds Escobar had amassed through drug trafficking, but he acknowledged that he had no evidence related to the existence of funds in Panama.

An official source has disclosed that acting Attorney General Valdes met yesterday with Jaime Abad, Technical Judicial Police [PTJ] director, to allegedly discuss the Colombian Government's request.

Meanwhile, former Attorney General Rogelio Cruz has acknowledged the possibility that a Medellin Cartel subsidiary could be operating in Panama.

**Pablo's Relatives in Panama**

At the same time, Immigration Department Director Antonio Dominguez has revealed that Escobar Gaviria's relatives arrived in Panama yesterday and will remain in the country for five days. Dominguez refrained from disclosing the degree of kinship between the visitors and the slain drug trafficker, but he did say that they had entered the country as tourists, because there was no reason to prevent them from entering. Shortly afterward, the immigration director contradicted his previous statements and stated that no Escobar relatives were in Panamanian territory.

Nevertheless, Tocumen International Airport sources have confirmed that seven of Pablo Escobar's relatives had entered the country.

This past May, three of Escobar's nephews, Laura, Nicolas, and Roberto Escobar traveled to Panama to avoid reprisals by the clandestine "Pepes" group which was conducting attacks against Medellin Cartel members and their relatives. [passage omitted]

**Cali Cartel Surrenders**

In another report, it was disclosed that the Cali Cartel leadership has announced their intention to surrender to the authorities by January 1994. Colombian judicial sources have disclosed that they plan to surrender "two at a time."

This organization is considered the main cocaine exporter and supplies 80 percent of the U.S. market. The Cali Cartel leadership is believed to be brothers Gilberto and Miguel Angel Rodriguez Orejuela and Jose Santa Cruz Londono.

Radio Cadena Nacional Radio station has reported that Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff was scheduled to meet with Cali Cartel lawyers. [passage omitted]

## Legislative Assembly Approves Vienna Convention on Drugs

*PA0512175893 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Dec 93 p 3a*

[Report by Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] Last night, the Legislative Assembly approved, in the third debate, Bill No. 36, which approves the UN convention on drugs and psychotropic substances signed in Vienna, Austria, on 20 December 1988. The convention indicates that drug trafficking is decimating society, mainly its young people, and is a serious threat to governments because it infiltrates and corrupts officials.

With regard to drugs, the UN convention classifies the production, manufacture, extraction, preparation, offer, sale, brokerage, export, and import of drugs as crimes. Each one of those activities are included among the crimes that allow for the extradition of a person. Extradition will be subject to the conditions established by the laws of the requesting country or by the applicable extradition treaties. Extradition will also be subject to arguments against extradition presented by the person to be extradited. The parties will make efforts to expedite the extradition proceedings and simplify the evidence requirements in any of the crimes classified by the law.

The signatories of the UN convention promise to render mutual legal assistance in the investigations, trials, and legal actions related to drug trafficking crimes.

## PRD Candidate Perez Leads in Voter Preference Poll

*PA0512170593 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 3 Dec 93 p 1a*

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] A CID/Gallup poll conducted exclusively for EL PANAMA AMERICA reveals that Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] candidate Ernesto Perez Balladares "will be the next president of Panama. The poll also discloses that 26 percent of the people are undecided regarding the presidential candidates. The poll, which included interviews in the homes of 1,200 citizens and was conducted from 9 to 18 November, recognizes that "for the first time since the (U.S) invasion, the PRD was chosen as the party with the greatest political strength."

Answering the question of who will be the next president, 23 percent responded in favor of former Minister Perez Balladares. Ruben Blades, the recently named candidate for the Papa Egoro Movement, came in second with a 16-percent preference rate. According to CID/Gallup, as Panama enters the election period, the antigovernment parties "are gaining strength."

The new poll points to significant changes from a survey taken in July. At that time, Ruben Blades was the favorite presidential candidate and Perez came in fifth, trailing Vice President Guillermo Ford, Arnulfist Party President Mireya de Gruber, and former Panama City Mayor Mayin Correa.

The November poll also shows that Guillermo Ford comes in third, with 12 percent, Gruber and Christian Democratic Party [PDC] candidate Ricardo Arias Calderon are tied for fourth place. Trailing them are former Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles with 3 percent and Carlos Arellano Lennox with 2 percent.

Other people who made the survey were former Panama Canal administrator Fernando Manfredo with 1.2 percent; former Minister Mario Galindo with 0.9 percent, and National Unity Mission candidate David Guerra with 0.5 percent. Correa and former PDC Vice President Gloria Moreno de Lopez, who four months ago was included in the group of presidential candidates, are not mentioned in this CID/Gallup poll.

## Argentina

### President Menem Returns From Japan

*PY0412183593 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1659 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (NA)—Argentine President Carlos Menem arrived at Ezeiza International Airport on board the Tango 01 presidential plane just before 1400 local time [1700 GMT].

The chief executive is expected to hold a news conference at a hall that has been made ready for him to talk to the journalists after his tour of The Netherlands, Cyprus, and Japan, which lasted almost two weeks.

### Justice Cavagna Martinez Resigns From Supreme Court

*PY0312223893 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2048 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—Supreme Court Justice Mariano Cavagna Martinez resigned this afternoon from his post on the Supreme Court.

Cavagna's resignation reportedly fulfills the demands made by the Radical Civic Union [UCR] for the signing of a democratic pact between the government and the main opposition party for the reform of the Constitution.

Rodolfo Barra resigned late Wednesday night and Ricardo Levene announced he will be retiring in February.

In view of this, there will be three vacancies on the Supreme Court. The UCR expects that as a result of these vacancies, there will be juridical guarantees for achieving the political pact.

### Menem Urges Belluscio To Resign

*PY0312124093 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2157 GMT 2 Dec 93*

[Text] President Carlos Menem, today in Tokyo, lauded the decision by Rodolfo Barra to resign from the Supreme Court and said he hopes Justice Augusto Belluscio will follow the example. This was Menem's latest move from the Far East to solve the crisis affecting the Supreme Court.

Menem's remarks to a metropolitan radio were swiftly answered by Belluscio who, upon hearing press reports of Menem's remarks, expressed surprise and reiterated that he does not intend to resign.

"By staying, I contribute to an independent court," Belluscio said in an open answer to the head of state who said that other justices should follow the example of Barra who yesterday presented his resignation to Eduardo Bauza, secretary general of the presidency, to cooperate with the democratic pact signed by Menem and UCR [Civic Radical Union] President Raul Alfonsin.

The president reiterated that Belluscio "is one of the most criticized individuals" in the justice department. Menem, however, quickly clarified that this "did not mean he was interfering."

Asked about Menem's remarks as he entered the court building, Belluscio answered that he was unaware of the terms used by the president.

"I do not know what you are talking about," he answered a specific question by a reporter, adding that he was "unaware of what the president had said."

The justice said: "If that is the case, it is the president's personal opinion and I will not take it into account." Belluscio thus minimized the president's public desire.

Menem stressed that Barra's resignation "was voluntary" and ratified that "there was no pressure" from the executive branch to help pave the way for agreement with the UCR on constitutional reform.

The president said that Barra's attitude "shows him for what he is, a very honest man," and opened the possibility for other members to follow suit.

"Let us hope other justices will follow his example, although I do not dare give names," Menem said. Yesterday the president suggested Barra's resignation. The president added that Judge Ricardo Levene may retire from the Supreme Court in February.

The head of state was very clear: "Let us hope (Belluscio) will follow Barra's example. We do not have anything against him, but his resignation would contribute in this process of institutional change in Argentina."

The president added that Barra's resignation is "a contribution toward the process of constitutional reform," adding that "other members of the judicial branch, who are being questioned—not just now but for a long time—should follow Barra's example," in an obvious reference to Belluscio.

Belluscio practically agreed with Menem when talking about Barra's stature. Belluscio believes what he did "speaks in his favor because it will help achieve the political pacification of the country."

Asked about the sporadic criticisms levied against him by National Deputy Maria Cristina Guzman of Jujuy, Belluscio categorically said: "That is her problem" adding that he spends his time "working" and performing "as well as possible."

Regarding the number of Supreme Court members, Belluscio said he favored the old system of five members until Menem decided to increase the number of justices to nine.

Belluscio said: "The nine-member court is elephantine," adding that "the court functioned better with five members than with nine."

### Justice Warns Court May Also Request Menem's Resignation

*PY0312133593 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2247 GMT 2 Dec 93*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—The pressure exerted by President Carlos Menem from Japan to obtain further vacancies in the Supreme Court was met today by the ardent reaction of Justice Augusto Cesar Belluscio, who warned the chief of state that "the president has the same right to request my resignation as I have to request his."

Shortly before a meeting attended to by all court members and obviously upset, Belluscio said: "We are appointed by the same procedure established in the Constitution and may be removed only by the same constitutional procedure."

The meeting was headed by Rodolfo Barra, who 24 hours previously submitted his resignation to Eduardo Bauza, secretary general of the presidency, but who will continue as Supreme Court chief until his resignation is accepted.

When Belluscio was approached by journalists on the steps at the Court entrance—he was 40 minutes late because he had to visit a chiropractor—and after learning about Menem's request from Japan, he energetically said: "I am not interested in the president's opinion on subjects that do not concern him."

Ratifying his stance, Belluscio said that Menem's "opinion was as unimportant as if I were to say that the president should follow Barra's example," and reiterated that he was not thinking of resigning.

Enrique Petracchi, who together with Belluscio denounced that a sentence had gone missing, referred to Barra's resignation yesterday and asserted that the decision had taken the Court members by surprise.

He stated that he "would not have resigned to favor a political agreement," referring to the reasons behind Barra's resignation. Barra has said that he resigned to help the agreements between the government and the UCR [Radical Civic Union] regarding the constitutional reform.

The nine Court justices, Barra, Belluscio, Petracchi, Antonio Boggiano, Ricardo Levene, Eduardo Moline O'Conner, Carlos Fayt, Julio Nazareno, and Mariano Cavagna Martinez, began to arrive at the Hall of Agreements [Salon de Acuerdos] shortly after 1730.

Despite the number of pending issues, the disagreements between the Court members surfaced right at the beginning of the meeting.

One of the justices mentioned the case of a decree on "need and urgency" (the Cocchia case) which the majority consider partially unconstitutional while Belluscio, Petracchi, and Fayt—the minority—consider it completely unconstitutional.

Menem's statement to a Buenos Aires radio station this morning was promptly answered by Belluscio, who shortly after learning through the media what the president had said voiced his surprise over this statement and ratified that he does not intend to resign.

Openly answering the chief of state, who said that he was all for other Court justices following Barra's example to help the Democratic Pact signed by Menem and UCR president Raul Alfonsin, Belluscio said: "By staying I am contributing to an independent Court."

The president reiterated that "Belluscio is one of the most questioned members" of the Court, although he explained that his comments "do not represent interference" in the Judicial Branch.

### Menem Asserts Supreme Court Crisis 'Entirely Overcome'

*PY0412233193 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1836 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 Dec (NA)—In a statement made upon his return to Argentina from a tour he made of the Netherlands, Cyprus, and Japan, President Carlos Menem this afternoon announced that he would meet with Radical Civic Union Chairman Raul Alfonsin only "after the finishing touches are put on the constitutional agreement."

The executive head of state moreover said that the Supreme Court problem arising from the resignations of Justices Rodolfo Barra and Mariano Cavagna Martinez "has been entirely overcome."

### Menem on Supreme Court, Constitutional Reform, Elections

*PY0412193393 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2037 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—President Carlos Menem today asserted in Japan that he does not want "a Supreme Court devoted to the government, but rather a highest court that understands the need to implement changes in Argentina."

The president also said that he wants the Supreme Court "to rule with justice and defend the interests of the country, thus accompanying this process of change."

He reiterated that the economic policy implemented by his administration "is entirely unnegotiable," and will therefore not be modified during his administration.

He also explained that if he cannot be reelected "another Justicialist will be elected, and will continue to implement the same economic policy." He forecast that as a result, "this economic model will continue to be implemented until at least the year 2000."

In an interview from Tokyo with Radio America, Menem denied having requested Rodolfo Barra's resignation as Supreme Court justice. He explained that it had been a decision "made in an entirely voluntary manner by the justice himself, which gives him an exceptional stature of ethicality."

The president said Barra is "an upright and skillful man" whom he believes to be "a jurist of which to be proud." He

said Barra's resignation "is a result of his ethical beliefs, his principles, and his morals."

He declined, nonetheless, to comment on Supreme Court Justice Augusto Belluscio's remarks, which showed practically complete unconcern about suggestions that he leave his position at the court.

Menem mentioned, however, that Belluscio "is facing criminal trial and an impeachment process in Congress, which does not coincide with the characteristics a Supreme Court justice must possess."

With regard to electoral rules, Menem deemed it "insane" to establish that only by obtaining a minimum of 50 percent of the votes would a candidate not have to run in a second electoral round. He said that "it is inappropriate to include this topic in the reform."

Asked about the death of Colombian drug trafficker Pablo Escobar Gaviria, Menem said "it is a relief for humankind to see someone die who has killed so many and perverted so many young people."

## Supreme Court Rules on Constituent Assembly's Rights

*PY0412200693 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 3 Dec 93 p 2*

[Excerpt] In a clear political gesture to calm the suspicions of the opposition and to appease the attacks of the executive power against its members, the Supreme Court decided yesterday that a Constituent Assembly cannot exceed the limits established by the law that entrusted the assembly to reform the Constitution.

The court's ruling, which was signed by only seven of its nine members, says that "it is necessary to note that under no circumstances can the powers conferred on the Constituent Assembly be considered unlimited."

The technical commissions of President Carlos Menem and of the UCR [Radical Civic Union] that negotiated the constitutional reform acknowledged that the future Constituent Assembly cannot arrogate other powers that go beyond the agreement and beyond those established by the law that declared the need to reform the Constitution. But the jurists of the UCR demanded expressed guarantees that seem to have been achieved last night through the Supreme Court ruling.

The ruling denied the appeal for review submitted by lawyer Antonio Jesus Rios against the Supreme Court of Corrientes Province as a result of the powers arrogated by the provincial Constituent Assembly that reformed the Corrientes Constitution. This case, identified by the Supreme Court with the number LR 405/93, helped the justices to send a calming message to the government and the opposition which are exerting pressure on the Court for the resignation of at least three of its members.

The ruling was signed after a long meeting. The meeting, chaired by outgoing Justice Rodolfo Barra, lasted more than four hours. The ruling was signed by Barra, and Justices Antonio Boggiano, Mariano Cavagna Martinez, Carlos Fayt, Julio Nazareno, Ricardo Levene, and Eduardo Moline O'Connor. [passage omitted]

## Church Issues Communique on Constitutional Reform

*PY0412204093 Buenos Aires PAGINA/12 in Spanish 5 Dec 93 p 2*

["Text" of communique issued by the Standing Commission of the Argentine Episcopal Conference on 4 December]

[Text] 1. Continuing with its first reflections, which were published at the end of the last plenary assembly, and in order to fulfill its pastoral mission, the Standing Commission of the Argentine Episcopal Conference would like to continue to refer to the announced reform of the Constitution.

2. The country is heading toward a constitutional reform, based on an agreement between the leaders of the majority political sectors. All agreements should entail a step forward, and should imply the creation of appropriate conditions for fruitful debate over the matters that are important for the common good and for the demands of genuine democracy.

3. The course that has so far been followed, however, has been subject to preconditions that jeopardize the action of the branches of government, the responsibility of lawmakers, the stability of judges, and even the legitimacy and stability of the future Constitution.

4. The Argentine people, who are not familiar with the reform project and its motivation, want a decent future in a society marked by solidarity. For this reason, the important work toward the reform of the Constitution should not divert the attention of those who govern and those who are governed from routine tasks that are important for life and for the quality of life of all inhabitants.

5. We call on those who are responsible for this reform process to clarify the intention, the motivation, and the procedures for ensuring a Constitution that reflects an authentic social pact. The political ability of leaders must be endorsed by their ethical qualifications, which are more necessary when the consequences of their decisions are more decisive for the country.

6. May the Lord our God, "the source of all reason and justice," purify us and provide us with the inspiration for all our efforts, enabling us to build, under the protection of the Virgin Mary, a better fatherland.

## Mining Cooperation Agreement Signed With Chile

*PY0312205793 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2337 GMT 2 Dec 93*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Dec (NA)—Mining Secretary Angel Maza today signed a mining cooperation agreement with

Chilean Mining Minister Alejandro Hales to encourage this activity in a cooperative manner between the two nations.

The agreement seeks exchange and cooperation in the geology and mining areas, within the framework of the Economic Complementation Agreement signed by the two countries. The agreement includes a protocol (No. 3) on mining cooperation and integration.

The evaluation of geological-mining resources in those areas, exchange of information, and the prevention of geological risks are included as established tasks. The exchange of scientists, research, and scientific information groups; the study of bilateral matters; and the transfer of technology are the means to firm up this cooperation.

The memorandum of understanding will be in effect for three years and can be extended automatically. With this objective, Maza today left for Chile where he will stay until tomorrow.

The signing ceremony took place at 2000 on 1 December at the Argentine Embassy in Chile in the presence of important mining businessmen from the two countries.

## UCR National Convention Approves Agreement With Government

*PY0412151093 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1337 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[Text] Santa Rosa, 4 Dec (NA)—This morning the Radical Civic Union, UCR, National Convention approved the agreement with the Argentine Government on the constitutional reform: 196 conventioneers voted for the reform while 87 voted against it.

The voting, which implied a landslide victory for Raul Alfonsin, ended around 1030 this morning.

After some 11 hours of debate and before they started casting their votes upon being called by name, the conventioneers decided to:

a) Instruct UCR legislators to vote in favor of the declaration calling for a constitutional reform;

b) Appoint a committee which will channel the initiatives of constitutional reform to the UCR blocs in Congress and to the UCR National Committee;

c) Empower the executive boards of the Convention and the National Committee to discontinue the talks with the administration if there is a change in the conditions required for the implementation of the agreement;

d) Create a committee of legal experts capable of advising the various UCR bodies on the subject.

Alfonsin's supporters of both the orthodox and the revisionist factions, Angeloz' supporters and the conventioneers for Patagonia voted in favor of the agreement while the supporters of Fernando de la Rua [UCR senator for Buenos Aires City], Federico Storani [UCR senator for Cordoba Province], Juan Manuel Casella [a UCR leader], and Entre Rios Province UCR leader Sergio Montiel voted against it.

## Foreign Minister on Mercosur, Japanese Relations, Falklands

*PY0412202393 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1824 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Dec (NA)—Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella said today that "positions will be made more flexible" in negotiations with Brazil over Mercosur [Common Market of the South], but that no "perfect or final agreement" will be reached.

He said that at the meeting of foreign and economy ministers of the two countries, which is to be held on Friday, 10 December, in Sao Paulo, agreements will be reached on "85 percent of the tariff issues," while a "plan to approach the targets" will be designed for the remaining 15 percent.

Concerning the Argentine Industrial Union (UIA) request to postpone for six months the agreement with Brazil, Di Tella said that "the way things are going, it will not be necessary." In radio statements from Tokyo, the foreign minister said that the president's visit to Japan "broke the ice and reduced the psychological distance" with that country in "some areas, while in others it did not."

He added that on the financial front the distance had clearly been "reduced" in connection with the $800 million granted by Eximbank to Argentina "in accordance with the Brady plan."

"There is, however, still no direct investment in Argentina," Di Tella said, adding that "the Japanese are influenced by the fact that stability is only three—not 30—years old."

He said that in any case Japanese investors "are approaching with much cautiousness," adding that "in order to make a decision it is necessary to have good news, not bad news, good indexes, not bad indexes, and good reporters [preceding word in English], and this what is happening."

In this regard, Di Tella emphasized that car manufacturers Toyota and Mazda "are seriously considering the possibility of investing in Argentina."

On another topic, he said that "seismic investigations have so far been insufficient to confirm the existence of oil" in the Malvinas Islands. He said investigations would continue during the first months of 1994, and if they are positive a stage of exploration—but not yet exploitation—would begin.

In this regard he said that "depending on the cooperation" with Great Britain, Argentina is willing to "consider several alternatives."

He warned, however, that if there is no cooperation, the British attitude will be "legally questioned on all fronts," as "was done last year, and consequently there will be no oil development."

## Bolivia

### Government Candidates Said To Win Municipal Elections

*PA0512213993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2049 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[Text] La Paz, 5 Dec (EFE)—The municipal elections held in Bolivia today were won by the government candidates in the country's main cities, according to the first announced results.

The liberal Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR), the party of Bolivian President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, won in La Paz with 39.9 percent of the votes; in Santa Cruz with 47.8 percent; and in Oruro with 26.1 percent, according to figures issued by television Channel 2.

In Cochabamba, the Social Democratic Free Bolivia Movement (MBL), ally of the MNR in the government, obtained a broad victory by receiving 63 percent of the votes.

Most of the polls throughout the country closed at 1600 (2000 GMT).

### President Justifies U.S. Envoy's Statement

*PY0312154993 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 25 Nov 93 p A7*

[Text] President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada yesterday justified the remarks by U.S. Ambassador Richard Charles Bowers about the need to "end the myth of the sacred leaf." He said the myth stems from the multilateral antidrug policy that Bolivia adopted during the government of Victor Paz Estenssoro.

During a visit to Cochabamba, where he was scheduled to dedicate some facilities and analyze regional development projects, the president said this policy "is possibly becoming exhausted," which is why his government will outline a new, more radical antidrug policy at the next Consulting Group meeting in Washington.

He stated that the antinarcotics fight is important not just for the United States, but for Bolivia and for all mankind.

#### Antinarcotics Fight: The Bolivian Interest

Asked if the statement by the U.S. ambassador should be considered intervention in Bolivian domestic affairs, Sanchez de Lozada simply answered that this situation has developed because of the previous MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement] government's carelessness in the areas of eradication, replacement, and repression of coca farming.

"We are possibly reaching a point of exhaustion of that policy; but we will adjust it and improve its implementation because the antinarcotics fight is important for all mankind, not just for the United States. It is a scourge for all mankind," he said.

He explained that the government did not become engaged in the antinarcotics fight under pressure or to seek economic support. "We are doing it of our own free will," he said.

#### A More Radical New Policy

The president believes his government must be more imaginative and really revolutionary. To this end, at the next Consulting Group meeting in Washington, the Executive Branch will outline a new and more radical antidrug policy.

This new strategy, according to the president, should include options and alternative activities without promoting any social confrontation in the country.

"The objective is to convince coca producers to get out of that activity and encourage them to participate in others," the president said.

### Further Reaction

*PY0312202693*

[Editorial Report] Bolivian newspapers publish further reaction from government and military officials to a 20 November statement by U.S. Ambassador Richard Bowers supporting the eradication of coca production in the Chapare region and an end to the "myth of the sacred leaf."

La Paz HOY in Spanish on 24 November publishes on page 1 of section 2 an unattributed 400-word article noting that through Social Defense Under Secretary Enrique Soria Jauregui, the government "has agreed with U.S. Ambassador Richard Bowers that 90 percent of the production of coca leaves is used for processing cocaine," thus making the further eradication of coca an imperative concern. The article adds that Soria's statement represents "yet another contradictory remark by this administration, in which some officials disagree, while others agree with Bowers' remarks."

Soria goes on to say that he wants "to very clearly establish that Bolivia has obligations, commitments signed by the former administration," pointing out that the antinarcotics struggle is "mainly economic in nature, and the government has to find a way to solve the Bolivian peasants' chronic poverty, which forces them to dedicate themselves to producing coca leaves." Soria concludes by stating: "I agree with the controversial remarks recently made by Ambassador Bowers. And I say this very clearly, as a Bolivian and as a state official. We have to accept reality, and the reality is that more than 90 percent of coca leaves are used for drug trafficking."

La Paz HOY in Spanish on 28 November publishes on pages 8-9 an unattributed 400-word article citing remarks

by Army Commander General Reynaldo Caceres Quiroga, who feels that "the U.S. Embassy should maintain a minimum of respect for Bolivian sovereignty, and cease ascribing to itself powers" that lead to "deplorable abuses against national dignity." He notes that "the only people who can save Bolivia from drug trafficking and corruption are Bolivians themselves, not other people," while adding that the United States "provides important economic aid for the antinarcotics war, as the drug problem is a world problem and the responsibility must be shared." In conclusion he notes: "We welcome the help they extend to us in this area."

### Government Contradicts U.S. on Coca Plantations

*PY0312151393 Santa Cruz EL MUNDO in Spanish 26 Nov 93 National Section p 10*

[Text] La Paz, 25 Nov (ANF)—Minister of Government German Quiroga Gomez has said that coca plantations in the country have increased by just 3 percent. This contradicts a report by the U.S. Embassy which states that coca plantations have increased by more than 80 percent.

Quiroga said coca plantations increased by 3 percent between 1992 and 1993 according to the results of a recent satellite study "where technology can spot plantations with a margin of error of about 1 percent, no more."

Last Wednesday, however, 24 hours after having asked for the end of the coca myth in Bolivia, the U.S. ambassador to Bolivia said that in 1992 coca plantations totaled 45,500 hectares and in 1993 it increased to 47,200 hectares, representing a production of 82,800 metric tons of coca.

Last August, the former Social Defense Under Secretariat released an official report which states that Bolivia has achieved "tremendous success in the fight against drugs," including the reduction of surplus plantations from 54,000 hectares in 1989 to just 25,000 hectares.

Recent satellite statistics carried out by U.S. organizations are reportedly jeopardizing aid to Bolivia for the antinarcotic struggle and the national image achieved over the past four years with successes in the interdiction of trafficking groups.

This past Thursday, the minister of government explained that the increase in coca plantations took place basically in Cochabamba because in the Yungas zone and in the rest of the national territory "there was no tangible increase in the surplus coca plantations."

He said this issue "is very worrisome for the government because of all the Cochabamba coca, 90 percent goes to drug trafficking and 10 percent to the Sacaba controlled market."

Concerning a possible reduction of U.S. economic assistance to the country, he said an agreement was signed by the previous administration in early July 1993 for cooperation with the balance of payments.

The minister of government reported that of the $40 million promised by the United States for the eradication of the surplus coca plantations, only 10 percent has been disbursed and the remainder is being held for the future.

### Official Views U.S. Role in Antinarcotics Fight

*PY0312141993 La Paz HOY in Spanish 26 Nov 93 p 6*

[Text] Special Antinarcotics Force (FELCN) Commander Renato Lopez Leyton said yesterday: "The FELCN believes that the United States, which is Bolivia's main ally in the antinarcotics fight, was not and is not 'the savior of the fatherland' which has rescued it—as one U.S. official put it—from 'drug- trafficking hands,' as reported by the U.S. newspaper 'THE NEW YORK TIMES.' I believe the FELCN has played a significant role in this case, obviously with the cooperation of world countries" but not just with U.S. cooperation.

According to the U.S. official, whose name was not reported by "THE NEW YORK TIMES," Bolivia owes its existence to the United States, which saved it from "drug-trafficking claws and, consequently, from corruption."

Gen. Lopez Leyton said the cooperation of friendly countries, which includes U.S. help, was important for Bolivia to successfully fight drug trafficking, but the central, decisive role was played by the FELCN.

"We are waging this war, despite our precarious resources, efficiently," he said.

"More than ever before," he continued, "under the current war conditions, it is impossible for drug trafficking to take over Bolivia."

Under the programs implemented as part of the antinarcotics action, Bolivia receives economic cooperation and technical assistance from several European countries, under the shared responsibility thesis.

International antinarcotics organizations have noted that both producing and consuming countries—the latter because of their growing markets—are obliged to participate in all fronts of the antinarcotics fight.

It should be recalled, however, that the United States is the country that is most interested in this war, because it is the largest consumer.

### Coca Producers Say Chapare 'Governed' by U.S. Embassy

*PY0312172293 La Paz HOY in Spanish 23 Nov 93 Section 2 p 3*

[Text] Cochabamba, 22 Nov (Erbol)—Coca producers' leader Evo Morales has stated that the huge Chapare tropical region is reportedly governed by the U.S. Embassy through the DEA and its intelligence apparatus.

Morales said the central government reportedly has no decisionmaking power over Dinaco [National Coca Control Directorate], Direco [Coca Reduction Directorate], or Umopar [Mobile Police Unit for Rural Areas] because behind those institutions the U.S. Embassy and the DEA give orders, rules, and supervises.

Morales thus responded to remarks by Social Defense Under Secretary Luis Enrique Soria on the presumed participation of coca producers in trafficking activities.

Morales said he has documents to prove his remarks and that he will submit them in due time to the press "so that the people may learn how the government has become an agency of the U.S. Embassy in the Chapare region."

Concerning the negotiations between coca producers and the government, which are due to resume this coming Wednesday in La Paz, Evo Morales said that they are encountering obstacles because of reluctance by the government to first control the primary markets.

The coca producers will demand respect for the original agenda which includes the discussion on peasant participation in the alternative development program discussions, in the treatment of Law 1008, in the harmonious and integral development of the region, and in coca marketing.

He said that the Executive Branch reform concentrates the technical and economic mechanisms of the alternative development program at the Ministry of Government, through the National Social Defense Secretariat, as if they were activities subjected to repression.

He said he does not understand how the Alternative Development Under Secretariat (Sudesal), the Prevention and Recovery Under Secretariat, and the Under Secretariat for Controlled Substances together with Dinaco and Direco can come under the Ministry of Government.

"Unfortunately, coca producers are considered criminals and liable to repression by the new executive branch structure," he said.

If negotiations with the government do not respect peasant participation in the discussions of the alternative development program, they may give up dialogue, he warned.

He said: "If the government persists in its objective we will begin to campaign for a ministry to deal with and help solve the problems of 5 million Quechuas and Aymaras, like the Campesino Affairs Ministry used to do."

### Newspaper Suggests Bypassing Embassy

*PY0312161693 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 24 Nov 93 p A5*

[Editorial: "The Department of State and the U.S. Embassy"]

[Text] After listening to so many deplorable verbal outbursts from U.S. ambassadors accredited to Bolivia, one gets the impression they do not have to answer to anyone in Washington for their improper behavior. The entire planet—not just the 180 independent states that make up the "international community" but also the various semi-autonomous territories and even the colonies—is represented at that complex and super-busy U.S. capital city.

Bolivia is just another country, and certainly not one of the most outstanding, in that bureaucratic jungle. Therefore, nobody can evaluate and keep an eye on the activities of the diplomats that come here from from Washington. If that were so, our government and our Foreign Ministry would not have to complain about remarks like the recent statement by U.S. Ambassador Richard Bowers on the coca leaf, because his bosses would be tweaking his ears.

Since this does not happen and since we all know that Department of State guidelines are more discreet and constructive than what its envoys usually do and say, perhaps we should strengthen our diplomatic mission in Washington by adding some four "senior" officials who could let our government know what the U.S. Government and Congress really think. For example, the views of the Clinton Administration on the coca issue, which is what prompted this editorial, are very different from those of the Reagan Administration, even though it may be true that the alleged sacred status of the coca leaf has been nothing but a myth for quite some time. Nevertheless, Mr. Bowers continues to use the same language his predecessor Mr. Gelbard used on many occasions.

Me might do better if we talk directly with Washington rather than talking to the embassy on Colon Street.

### Opinions Differ on Success of Alternative Crop Program

*PY0312222093 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 28 Nov 93 p 1*

[Text] The crop substitution program currently under way in the Chapare region of Cochabamba Department has not been able to meet the proposed goals. Consequently many peasants now regret having eradicated their coca crops.

Julio Ivan Bustamante, a farmer who is a member of the Antofagasta trade union, said that the program "has done very little" to further the development of that tropical region.

He contends that in order to obtain the credit for replacing coca crops it is necessary to be quite solvent and, paradoxically, to own some hectares cultivated with coca in order to be able to pay interest and repay the loan.

Bustamante is now engaged in growing pineapple, which is not always profitable.

The costs involved in producing one pineapple add up to 1.70 bolivianos, and producers sometimes have to sell three pineapples for 1 boliviano. "We are being reduced to beggary," said Bustamante.

Sometimes I regret having eradicated my coca crops, although I now live in peace and with no fear, he said.

Bustamante made this statement during a seminar on journalism and drug prevention, held in Cochabamba 22-24 November under the aegis of the Antinarcotics Education Campaign (CESE) and the U.S. Embassy's USIS.

Bustamante acknowledged that a great percentage of the coca produced in the Chapare region ends up being bought by drug traffickers. He proposed that a government agency

or private organization buy the cocoa production, to either process it or burn it. We peasants will thus be left in peace, he said.

As opposed to to Bustamante's opinion, the U.S. Embassy thinks that the alternative development program has earned "considerable acceptance among coca leaf producers."

A report issued by the embassy says that a large percentage of producers affiliated to the six Chapare federations participate in the program.

The population of peasants who plant coca total 39,913, and at present they cultivate less than one hectare per person on average. In addition, 50 percent of coca producer federation members have participated in cultivation reduction programs since the promulgation of Law 1008 in 1987, which indicates a substantial progress in existing alternative development programs.

The report says that the Single Confederation of United Federations [Federacion Unica de Centrales Unidas] headed by Emiliano Flores has shown the greatest success. Nearly two-thirds of its members (64.5 percent) have participated in plantation reduction programs. The report adds that 54 percent of Cochabamba peasants affiliated to the Special Federation of Tropic Region Peasant Workers headed by Evo Morales have reduced their coca plantations.

## President Sanchez Rules Out 'Divorce' Within Government

*PY0512000293 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish*
*27 Nov 93 p 5*

[Text] Announcing new talks with Solidarity Civic Union [UCS] leader Max Fernandez "for the sake of the children," the president of the Republic, Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, yesterday ruled out "the possibility of a divorce within the government."

The statement made by Fernandez concerning the Plan for All, namely that "it has failed," has put in doubt the stability of the ruling coalition, which is also comprised of the National Revolutionary Movement and the Free Bolivia Movement.

Both President Sanchez de Lozada and Carlos Sanchez, minister of the presidency, have explained that in the course of their talks with the UCS leader he told them that "the press had misinterpreted his remarks."

In response to a question from journalists, the head of state said that "this reaction creates an awkward situation for the government," adding that "I would rather not comment on those remarks."

"When I asked Don Max to provide me with an explanation, he said that he never said that, and that the press had misinterpreted his remarks," he reiterated. Sanchez de Lozada went on to say that "I had better speak with him, and let us hope he will be more precise."

"I believe that once we have a talk we will be able to settle things and know what is happening, but I believe those remarks are totally unfounded," stressed the head of state.

Sanchez de Lozada also ruled out that Fernandez had become a problem within the government. "The major problems confronting Bolivia are poverty, backwardness, disease, and putting the new apparatus of government in motion," he pointed out. The president deemed that Fernandez was "a good friend, and is by no means my greatest concern."

Lastly, Sanchez de Lozada announced that Enrique Soria, former Social Defense under secretary, has been commissioned to the National Secretariat for Integrated Development of the National Defense Ministry, while Mario Soliz has been transferred to Social Defense. Both officials will be installed on 29 November.

The president also denied that Defense Minister Antonio Cespedes would be removed from office, adding that "it is the president who decides when ministers should leave."

Minister Carlos Sanchez is of the opinion that "this in an uncomfortable situation" because it requires providing reporters with explanations.

## Further Details on Bilateral Talks With Chilean Official

*PY0312224193 La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish*
*27 Nov 93 pp B4-5*

[Text] Bolivia and Chile installed the Administrative Commission of the Economic Complementation Agreement a few days ago. Some of the issues to be discussed by the commission in the next few months are freer trade and greater investment and mutual cooperation.

Bolivian Industry and Commerce Secretary Carlos Morales Landivar said the commission, which is made up of two Bolivian and Chilean government representatives, established several issues to be resolved in the next few months before they are made official in meetings held annually.

Morales said: "The commission's purpose is to give life to the agreement" that was signed last March in order to implement operational measures for solving various issues between the two countries.

The act signed between the two countries points out the need to establish new methods of negotiations to give greater range to the liberation of mutual trade.

The Administrative Commission's work program includes an enlargement of the liberation program that will "include the real and potential supply of the two countries." The act also refers to the need to continue the exchange of ideas on the complementation of energy.

It also includes the exchange of ideas for establishing a regulation for solving controversies and for improving the development of economic cooperation activities on issues related to trade, tourism, and regulations for health control of animals and vegetables.

The private sector also created a Business Advisory Council that presented several recommendations for the Administrative Commission's work program.

Chilean Under Secretary of Foreign Relations Rodrigo Diaz Albonico said: "Bolivia is a brother neighbor country, a natural partner of Chile." He said there is great potential for increasing trade and investments for the benefit of the two countries.

After the three acts of understanding between the two countries were signed on 26 November in the Foreign Ministry, Diaz Albonico was the center of attention at a news conference that was also attended by two Bolivian officials, International Relations Secretary Jaime Aparicio and Industry and Commerce Secretary Carlos Morales.

The acts that were signed refer to the regulation of the Economic Complementation Agreement's Administrative Commission, to the promotion and protection of investments, and to the ratification of the free transit agreement for storing minerals.

Diaz Albonico added: "Even though trade between the two countries is rather small, we believe the prospects of trade growth should not be measured by the current trade level but by its potential."

Diaz Albonico also said the two countries' potential complement each other because "there are some resources that Bolivia has and Chile does not, and the other way around. There are many possibilities for integrating capital, for 'joint venture' operations, and for increasing exports between the two countries."

In answer to a question if the Peruvian port of Ilo would represent competition for the Chilean ports of Arica and Iquique, Diaz Albonico said his country does not have any type of complex about the Bolivian-Peruvian port agreement, and that in any case he applauds that agreement.

### Foreign Minister Installs New 'Consultative Council'

*PY0412214793 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 27 Nov 93 p 1*

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar yesterday installed the Consultative Council, which will design a foreign policy strategy based on consensus, unity, and continuity.

Ten prominent figures make up the Standing Consultative Council, an organ that is part of the new foreign policy that President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada announced upon the conclusion of his visit to Chile.

The Council, which will have direct ties with the Foreign Ministry, is made up of former Presidents Walter Guevara Arce and General Guido Vildoso Calderon; former Foreign Ministers Gustavo Medeiros, Jorge Escobari, and Raul Bothelo; and diplomats and historians Manfredo Kempff, Fernando Salazar, Pablo Dermisaky, Ramiro Velasco, and Jorge Crespo. The alternate members are Felipe Mancilla and Carlos Toranzo.

"The major step we are taking today is part of the four guidelines that we set for ourselves for the Foreign Ministry administration," Aranibar said.

The objective is to design a foreign policy that is appropriate for Bolivian strategic interests, creating a basic consensus leading to the making of legitimate decisions guaranteeing consistency, unity, and continuity in definitions, providing decisive diplomatic and expert support to help Bolivia join international, long-term economic projects. [passage omitted]

## BRAZIL

### PSDB Bloc in Senate Endorses Government's Economic Measures

*PY0312141793 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0930 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] The difficult period confronting the country may hamper the approval of the government's economic measures by Congress. The PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] bloc in the Senate has endorsed the economic program. Notwithstanding this, PSDB senators acknowledge that they are discussing new proposals for economic control. Here we have a report by correspondent Corban Costa:

[Begin recording] [Costa] PSDB senators favor the government's plan to curb inflation, but are open to other proposals. This was the outcome of a meeting Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso held with the PSDB bloc in the Senate. Senator Mario Covas has said that the aim is to pass the economic measures without introducing any amendments, but before being able to do so, they must first be discussed by Congress.

[Covas] ...a contact, a deeper contact with the measures that at present are only proposals. At this juncture, our role—at least up to now—is to support the measures in committee. It is obvious that Congress is a forum for discussion, a political forum. Hence, alternatives for these same objectives may be proposed and we will not object to discussing them.

[Costa] Senator Covas added, however, that the crisis enmeshing Congress may hamper the passing of the economic plan by Congress. [end recording]

### Cardoso Says Country Not To Stop Because of Corruption

*PY0412173593 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[Text] Finance Minsiter Fernando Henrique Cardoso has said that Brazil will not come to a grinding halt because some people have been stealing. He said that the solution to the country's problems is to balance public accounts. He added that to achieve this there must be fiscal austerity, budget reform, and control over public spending.

The minister also said that the country cannot give up such taxes as the Social Security Contributions and the Provisional Tax on Financial Operations, or the 5 percent tax rate charged on federal taxes, which are included in the 1994 budget.

Minister Cardoso has confirmed that the government will use a currency index, i.e. a referential unit, to stabilize the economy and end inflation. He added, however, that this index will only go into force after Congress approves the fiscal reform.

During the Second National Brazilian Social Democracy Party meeting, the finance minister said that Brazil has the conditions to have a strong, stable currency without inflation. Cardoso said that the government is planning to use provisional measures to increase the tax rate by 5 percent. He told this to Deputy Tarcisio Delgado, Brazilian Democratic Movement Party leader, and Deputies Germano Rigotto and Joao Almeida, with whom he had breakfast.

Minister Cardoso admits that the government will hardly be able to convince Congress to approve the amendment with the fiscal reform emergency measures this year.

### Debt Negotiator Interviewed on Foreign Debt

*PY0312173093 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Nov 93 Section 2 p 4*

[Interview with debt negotiator Andre Lara Resende and Central Bank President Pedro Malan by unidentified FOLHA DE SAO PAULO reporter at the Finance Ministry on 24 November]

[Text] [FOLHA] The agreement on the Brazilian foreign debt is more advantageous than those signed by Mexico and Argentina. Was this the best agreement we could obtain?

[Lara Resende] That is difficult to say. In 1982, when the debt crisis began, I wrote an article forecasting that the problem would take years to be solved, and this is what has happened. The best step toward the solution of this problem was the Brady proposal (the refinancing proposed by the United States in 1988), which contemplated reducing the debt and the debt service. The agreement conditions have improved slightly with time, and this argument has been used frequently to oppose concluding the agreement.

[FOLHA] What is the answer to this argument?

[Lara Resende] It underrates the benefits resulting from the solution of this problem and the normalization of our international relations. In the last two years, the country has again accessed the international private banks market, Brazilian companies have been issuing certificates abroad, and our reserves have increased as a result. This has occurred because the international community has realized that the debt negotiation was advancing.

[FOLHA] Do we have the means to honor this agreement?

[Lara Resende] The ability to pay the debt is not dependent on dollars coming into our economy. The creditors believe that, as a large amount of resources have been entering the country, we could pay our debt. We told them our problem is fiscal. The Brazilian foreign debt is entirely public; it is concentrated in the Central Bank. Therefore, the government must have a fiscal surplus to purchase dollars from private exporters. This is what defined the agreement. This idea was introduced by Bresser Pereira (finance minister from 1987-1988) and, at the time, it seemed crazy.

[FOLHA] Do you believe, therefore, that we can comply with the terms of the agreement?

[Lara Resende] Yes I do, because we negotiated discounts on the debt principal and the interest rates to be paid over the next 30 years.

[FOLHA] Economist John Kenneth Galbraith contends in an article that Third World countries will be unable to lift themselves from their underdevelopment if they have to repay their foreign debts at the same time. Is that true?

[Lara Resende] That idea was prevalent 11 years ago, but the concept evolved and a consensus was reached on the need to reduce the debt principal, which is the basis of the Brady Plan. Galbraith was right—those debts will not be repaid in their entirety. They all had to be rescheduled; the principal has been reduced and the repayment schedule extended. The debt burden has been eased to acceptable levels.

[FOLHA] Approval of the debt rescheduling agreement presupposes that an agreement will be reached with the IMF by March. Is there any risk of the agreement being frustrated?

[Lara Resende] The agreement with the IMF is not part of the debt rescheduling agreement. Brazil has undertaken a program to stabilize its economy, to adjust its public finances, and has resorted to the IMF to jointly develop a sustainable program. Once this program is implemented, it is important that it be approved by the IMF so the country can have access to its credit lines.

[FOLHA] But there will be no debt swap unless an agreement is reached with the IMF...

[Lara Resende] Brazil may go as far as to ask private creditors to desist from requiring a prior agreement with the IMF, but the U.S. Treasury continues to be adamant on that issue. We need the agreement to be guaranteed by the U.S. Treasury.

[FOLHA] Why has Brazil been unable to work out an agreement with the IMF so far?

[Lara Resende] The IMF told us that the schedule was too tight. We may be able to hammer out an agreement by February if everything goes well.

[FOLHA] Has this agreement been dragging terribly?

[Lara Resende] No, the deadline was always the same. The IMF has always told us that we would not be able to reach agreement this year because they wanted to see the 1994 budget and know whether we would take measures to

reorganize the fiscal system in 1994. When we travelled to Washington (in September), it was clear that we were behind schedule because we had not submitted next year's budget. The ensuing crisis (the budget scandal) brought the constitutional revision grinding to a halt.

[FOLHA] Will the 1994 budget be enough to guarantee IMF approval or will it be necessary to amend the Constitution?

[Lara Resende] The budget includes draconian and urgent measures that guarantee that public accounts balance for two years. With regard to the constitutional revision, which will not take place until next year, the government will voice its opinion on what it considers ought to be amended, like the constitutional provisions concerning government revenues and appropriations for states and municipalities. Revenues that the federal government could have at its disposal were greatly curtailed following the constitutional revision.

[FOLHA] Were measures like the establishment of a new indexation level submitted to the IMF?

[Lara Resende] The IMF is highly competent in drafting stabilization schemes. Countries like Mexico and Argentina worked out agreements with the IMF and implemented successful stabilization programs. The IMF knows about and participates in drawing up government guidelines. The IMF mission that was here until 24 November left with a pretty good idea of what will be done.

[FOLHA] And has it given its approval?

[Lara Resende] It did not come to give its approval since it is a technical mission. I think that we will work out an agreement despite the tight schedule.

[FOLHA] Another hurdle for the agreement is the U.S. family Dart, to whom our country owes $1.4 billion, as they oppose the terms of the debt restructuring agreement. Can they be left out?

[Lara Resende] We contacted the advisory committee of creditor banks and were told that any adjustment we might make with a creditor that constituted an exception to the rules of the agreement would be highly risky because others might also demand adjustments. The Darts will not budge from their idea of maintaining the MYDFA (current Brazil's debt securities). So, Brazil will reach an agreement and the Darts will keep the old debt securities.

[FOLHA] Will there be no legal problems?

[Lara Resende] We asked the creditors to grant us the right to refuse to close the agreement without the Darts because their position can affect Brazil. In our opinion, to take the trouble to close an agreement and to leave a creditor out represents a badly solved problem. Nonetheless, it is so irrational of them to remain out of the agreement that we are basing our action on the premise that they will join it.

(At this moment, Central Bank President Pedro Malan—who had been attending a National Monetary Council meeting in the same building—entered the office.)

[FOLHA] Once agreement is reached, is it certain that the so-called Brazil Risk—the extra interest rate charged to Brazilian companies on loans obtained from abroad—will drop?

[Malan] The agreement will have a positive effect on foreign market expectations. Undoubtedly, the negotiations that have been successively interrupted and the past moratoria increased the Brazil Risk. It will depend on how we deal with domestic problems, on our capacity to organize our disorder in a democratic manner.

[FOLHA] How long will that take?

[Malan] It is a process. The agreement with the IMF is an important step. In Mexico, during the six-year administration of De La Madrid, who preceded President Carlos Salinas, this objective was persistently pursued. In Argentina it was the same and in Brazil it will also be the same.

[FOLHA] Why are we taking longer than the others?

[Malan] We have allowed a series of problems to pile up. We labored under the illusion that we would swiftly solve the problems, but they reappeared. An English proverb states: There is one simple and mistaken solution to each complex problem. Until quite recently, we barely managed to sell company certificates on the foreign market.

[Lara Resende] We have an extremely effective and competitive private sector. This is clearly shown by this year's economic growth of 4 to 5 percent of the GDP. This will not be sustained but it is a sign of the Brazilian economic potential. We have generated one of the largest surpluses in the world without imposing restrictions on imports and with an average tariff of 14 percent. This is the international level.

## Franco Opens First National Amazon Council Meeting

*PY0412010393 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] The National Legal Amazon Council met today for the first time in Planalto Palace. Council members discussed the prospects of sustainable development in the region. President Itamar Franco opened the meeting.

All the ministers and governors of the Amazon region are members of the council that was created in September. The council is an advisory organization of the president and its activities are linked to the Environment and Legal Amazon Region Ministry, which is in charge of all actions by the federal government in the Amazon region. The council is responsible for drawing up an integrated policy for the Amazon region and for articulating joint measures with the states and municipalities for sustainable development, for improving the standard of living of the Amazon population, for the protection of the environment, and for the preservation of Indian culture.

In his speech, President Itamar Franco said the Brazilian people will not yield their sovereignty over the Amazon

and that it is in the interest of all to resolve the problems once and for all in a balanced manner:

[Begin recording] Responsibility regarding the Amazon region means seeking a policy for sustainable development, and for the improvement of the standard of living of its more than 17 million people. This responsibility demands a clear commitment to the protection of the environment and the rational use of the natural resources. [end recording]

President Franco also said it is necessary to update the debates on the Amazon, which is the last frontier of the human race and knowledge. He recalled that an integrated policy for the region is being defined by the ministry, which is in charge of coordinating federal action in the Amazon, and by the National Council:

[Begin recording] The defense of the territory, the presence of the Brazilian state in the unpopulated regions or in the distant regions with little population, the protection of the people of the forests starting with the Indians, the fight against the illegal means of depredation of natural resources—all of these things have been the constant concern of the government in drawing up its plans. [end recording]

President Franco also said the backbone of all the actions in the Amazon is the division of the region into environmental and economic areas. Franco added that this is the basis of knowledge for the rational and sustainable exploitation of the natural resources, and for defining the areas of preservation and occupation.

The National Legal Amazon Council created eight sectorial commissions. The Amazon represents 57 percent of the national territory and is the planet's greatest natural resource. Therefore, in order to take care of this region, the government is creating ways to prevent abuse in the region. The council, which met for the first time today in Planalto Palace, decided to create eight sectorial commissions to resolve the region's problems in the areas of sustainable development, international relations, vigilance and protection of the territory, mineral prospecting, Indian population, forestry, science and technology, and also education, health and social affairs.

Environment Minister Rubens Cicupero gave as an example gold prospectors, who have no clear legislation for their work involving 400,000 workers. Ricupero said the current legislation is not applicable and this is why all gold prospectors in the country are considered illegal.

## Army Spokesman Rules Out Possibility of Coup

*PY0312204593 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 2 Dec 93 p 5*

[Text] Brasilia—Deputy Aloizio Mercadante (PT-SP [Workers Party-Sao Paulo State]) on 1 December presented the Army minister, General Zenildo Lucena, with a detailed report on the current status of the Congressional Investigating Committee [CPI] looking into the budget mafia and the scheme through which public projects were being allocated to large construction companies.

Following the meeting at Army headquarters, Deputy Mercadante reported that the minister was appalled by the information he received.

"Minister Lucena told me: Hurry up. We support you," according to Mercadante, who is the son of a retired Army general.

On the evening of 1 December, Aeronautics Minister Lelio Lobo and Navy Minister Ivan Serpa had yet to receive any information from the budget CPI on the scheme involving public projects being investigated by committee members.

General Gilberto Serra, head of the Army Social Communications Center (Cecomsex), stated that Congress is undergoing a cleansing process. According to Gen. Serra, the military is calmly and prudently awaiting the conclusion of the investigation Congress is conducting among its members through the budget CPI.

"We are always concerned about everything that goes on in the country. We are waiting because we are sure that the legislators are doing what they have to do. Congress itself has unleashed this. Congress, as an institution, is taking care of itself," Gen. Serra said.

He believes: "The military continues to support the democratic normalization of the country." Serra categorically ruled out any possibility that the military would stage a coup d'etat or shut Congress.

"That is not even thought about. There will be elections soon. Those who do not like the current Congress will be able to democratically choose another one," the Army spokesman said.

## Paulo Cesar Farias Arrives in Brazil; In Custody in Brasilia

*PY0312172993 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Paulo Cesar Farias is in custody in Brasilia. He returned to Brazil aboard a commercial flight that left Bangkok, Thailand, last evening and arrived at Sao Paulo Guarulhos international airport early this morning. Here is a report by Jose Roberto Burnier, who covered Farias' arrival:

[Begin recording] The 156 days during which he was at large ended here. Paula Cesar Farias arrived today aboard Varig flight 829. The Boeing 747-400 took off from Thailand's capital city yesterday at 1830 local time, 0930 Brasilia time, and landed at Sao Paulo airport at 0810 this morning. Farias was the first passenger to disembark from the plane, escorted by the Federal Police and Interpol personnel. He was wearing a light-colored shirt, no jewelry, and carrying a briefcase.

He was taken in a convoy to the Air Force base at the other end of the airport. Air traffic was interrupted for a few minutes to enable the vehicles to cross the runway.

Farias then boarded a Brazilian Air Force Bandeirante aircraft, which left for Brasilia at 0910 local time. [end recording]

### Military Feel 'Relief' at Joulwan's Departure From U.S. Southern Command

*PY0412171193 Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 1 Dec 93 p 41*

[From the "Radar" page]

[Text] Relief is being felt in Fort Apache, the headquarters of Brazilian Armed Forces General Staff, EMFA, in Brasilia, at the replacement of U.S. General George Joulwan as commander of military operations headquartered in Panama. Joulwan is blamed for the idea of staging military maneuvers in Argentina, Uruguay and Guyana, along the Brazilian borders, which the Brazilian military considered provocative.

### PLO's 'Arafat to Visit in 1994, Foreign Minister in Dec

*PY0312184493 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0930 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat will visit Brazil in 1994. This was announced by Foreign Minister Celso Amorim who explained that he will discuss and coordinate 'Arafat's agenda with his Palestine counterpart Farouk Qaddumi during the latter's visit on 9 December.

Amorim added that the Brazilian Government is interested in participating in the building of a new Palestinian state, especially in the area of civil construction.

## Chile

### UN Representative Proposes New Security Council Structure

*PY0512003493 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 24 Nov 93 p C2*

[Text] Chile yesterday proposed enlarging the UN Security Council to incorporate four categories of members, so as to enhance the efficacy, representation, and legitimacy of its decisions.

This proposal was put forward by the Chilean permanent representative before the United Nations, Ambassador Juan Somavia, at a plenary session of the General Assembly convened to discuss fair representation on the Security Council and the expansion of its membership.

Somavia said that while the Security Council is hyperactive in its decisions while remaining static with regard to the nature of its structure.

He contended that in recalling the preamble of the UN Charter, one would conclude that the United Nations ought not to become the "policeman" of international relations following the end of the Cold War.

Somavia went on to say that unfortunately this image has lately been gaining ground.

The proposal advanced by Chile for the Security Council's new makeup establishes that it should not be comprised of more than 25 members, and that these could be divided into four categories: 1) permanent members (the PRC, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Russia); 2) permanent members with no power of veto (Chile proposes incorporating Japan and Germany in this category); 3) regional members having a prolonged mandate; and 4) nonpermanent members.

Pursuant to the structure devised in 1945, the Security Council is at present made up of five permanent members empowered with the right of veto, and 10 nonpermanent members that sit on it for a period of two years.

The category of "permanent members having a prolonged mandate" is one of the most novel formulations in the Chilean proposals.

This means that developing countries having more clout might as a rule have access to the Security Council, and thus represent their regions or subregions for a longer term than the two years currently stipulated for nonpermanent members.

### Defense Minister Meets British Counterpart

*PY0312193493 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 24 Nov 93 p C5*

[Text] During a stopover on his way to Malaysia, Chilean Defense Minister Patricio Rojas met his British counterpart, Secretary of State for Defense Malcolm Rifkind, in London.

At this meeting the two officials assessed the way in which bilateral relations in the field of defense have developed in the wake of the memorandum of understanding the two ministers signed in London in 1991.

That very same year the Chilean Defense Ministry created the Program of International Cooperation for Defense to encourage, expand, and strengthen opportunities for military training among similar institutions in friendly countries.

Rojas and Rifkind evaluated the efforts the two ministries of defense have been making to further cooperation, and the efficiency and professionalism British and Chilean soldiers have displayed in the course of various UN peacekeeping missions.

Minister Rojas announced that next year a Chilean ship-of-the-line captain would be allowed to enroll in the British Royal Defense College and that the British Staff College in Bracknell also will admit Chilean officers.

The Chilean minister will begin his official visit to Malaysia on 24 November at the invitation of his Malaysian counterpart.

### Congress Ratifies Tlatelolco Treaty

*PY0312144093 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 26 Nov 93 p C2*

[Text] Valparaiso—The draft agreement on the approval of several amendments to the Tlatelolco Treaty is ready for publication in the official gazette following registration at the Controller's Office.

This draft agreement modifies the Treaty for the Proscription of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was formulated in April 1969 and was ratified by Chile in October 1974.

This international treaty, signed in the Mexican town of Tlatelolco, seeks to establish zones and environments free of nuclear weapons. It is the first of its type encompassing an extensive and heavily populated zone like Latin America and the Caribbean.

The changes seek to include countries which obtained their independence since the implementation of said treaty (Belize and Guyana), to change in the treaty's name, and to include the Caribbean nations.

Finally, by suggestion of Chile, Argentina, and Brazil, essential amendments are being made to make the treaty's control system more operational without affecting its essential political principles and objectives.

### Spanish Ambassador Admits Deterioration in Relations

*PY0412153293 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] The relationship between Chile and Spain has been seriously affected by the Soria case and there will be concrete gestures to demonstrate it, according to Spanish Ambassador to Chile Pedro Bermejo.

The Spanish ambassador met with Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma for 30 minutes this afternoon.

During the course of a series of steps taken by the Spanish authorities following the Chilean Supreme Court decision to deny a request for the appointment of a special judge to hear this case, the Spanish Government tackled the problem with greater determination and energy. It has thus lodged a diplomatic claim with the Foreign Ministry, a true protest, which was reinforced with the presence of Ambassador Bermejo.

This protest implies a demand, in practice, of a request to the Chilean Court to reconsider its decision that must be made by the Foreign Ministry.

The Spanish ambassador said that he informed the Foreign Ministry about his government's position. We interviewed Ambassador Bermejo on this subject.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Ambassador, has your government lodged a protest, a formal demand?

[Bermejo] There is a new assessment, which is probably more critical, that the relationship between Spain and Chile has been seriously affected. When we make this statement, the Chilean Government—through its Foreign Ministry—knows perfectly well what this means and what it must do. [end recording]

Moreover, the Spanish Foreign Ministry in Madrid has informed the Chilean charge d'affaires of the need to clarify the circumstances under which ECLA [Economic Commission for Latin America] representative Carmelo Soria was murdered in 1976.

It was noted that this case seriously affects the Chilean-Spanish relationship.

In Ambassador Bermejo's opinion, it is unnecessary to reiterate the request for the appointment of a special judge because by pointing out the deterioration in the relationship between the two countries, the Foreign Ministry must act accordingly.

For the third time, the ambassador openly noted the bad and precarious state of the current relationship.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Ambassador, what, in sum, does the fact that the relationship has deteriorated mean?

[Bermejo] There will probably be signs or gestures that will make it clear that our relationship is, in fact, worse than it was two or three months ago and you will learn about them in due course.

[Reporter] Would this entail, for example, your withdrawal?

[Bermejo] I hope not. [end recording]

One of Spain's concerns is respect for human rights. This explains its interest in the Soria case. It upholds the basic rights of the human being, which means that the Spanish Government wants any crime violating the right to live to be solved and punished. This explains its interest in this case.

### Deadline for Electoral Propaganda Expires on 9 Dec

*PY0412162293 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] The deadline for electoral propaganda, either through the media, banners, or posters expires on 9 December. This was ratified by Army Major General Guido Riquelme Andaur, garrison commander for the Metropolitan Region and San Antonio Province, through the second resolution issued since he assumed this post.

[Begin Riquelme recording] Demonstrations or public meetings of an electoral nature are prohibited and the closing down of all propaganda offices and any office or organization designed to attend electors between 0000 on 9 December until four hours after the elections have concluded at all balloting stations of the respective jurisdiction or district is hereby ordered. [end recording]

Maj. Gen. Guido Riquelme added that permits to carry weapons are suspended from 0000 on 8 December until 0000 on 15 December.

Moreover, Riquelme said that Resolution No. 2 also authorizes the official headquarters of political parties and independent candidates to function until 1000 on 11 December only to attend and distribute poll watchers.

[Begin Riquelme recording] On 11 December any store that sells beverages, either to be consumed at the store or outside, will remain closed until four hours after the voting has concluded in the respective district. [end recording]

Gen. Riquelme added that on 11 December, the day of the elections, theaters, movie theaters, or premises used for spectacles—either sports, artistic, or cultural shows—will remain closed until four hours after the elections have concluded in the respective district. According to Riquelme, fulfillment of this resolution will be guaranteed, through Carabineros, by the chiefs of the military forces.

### Poll Confirms 'Great Majority' for Frei

*PY0412163193 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[Excerpts] The results of the last poll conducted by Cep-Adimarc in 13 Chilean towns after the presidential debate [between presidential hopefuls Eduardo Frei and Arturo Alessandri] were disclosed today.

This poll confirms a great majority for Eduardo Frei and dismisses any chance of a second round.

It also reveals a significant increase in Manfred Max-Neef and Jose Pineira's popularity.

The poll confirms that President Patricio Aylwin's government has fulfilled the unusual goal of leaving government with a majority support of the citizenry. [passage omitted]

Figures reveal that Eduardo Frei's popularity has dropped slightly compared to the previous poll but that he still enjoys a great majority of 58.8 percent. Alessandri's popularity has experienced an even greater drop but he continues in the second place. These variations are probably caused by the increase of popularity gained by Max-Neef with 7.1 percent and Jose Pineira with 4.7 percent followed by Eugenio Pizarro and Cristian Reitze. [passage omitted]

The poll predicts that the results of the 11 December elections will be as follows: Frei 60.7 percent; Alessandri 20.5 percent; Max-Neef 7.3; Pineira 6.9; Pizarro 3.8; and Reitze 0.8 percent. [passage omitted]

## Colombia

### Family Postpones Escobar's Burial Until 4 Dec

*PA0312213793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2048 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Report by Roberto Rojas Monroy]

[Excerpts] Medellin (Colombia), 3 Dec (EFE)—While thousands of people paraded past the corpse of Pablo Escobar, the man who was chief of the "Medellin Cartel," his family reported that his burial, which was scheduled for this afternoon, has been postponed until tomorrow.

Luz Marina, one of Escobar's sisters, said the family decided to postpone the funeral "until Saturday" to allow "all Antioquians (residents of Antioquia Department) to see him." Originally, it had been said that Escobar's burial would take place today at 1300 (1800 GMT), and later his sister Luz Marina announced it would take place two hours later.

Nevertheless, just past noon (1700 GMT) the relatives of the late head of the "Medellin Cartel," who was killed on Thursday during a clash with members of the Search Bloc, decided that his burial should be held Saturday at 1700 (2200 GMT). [passage omitted]

The decision to postpone the burial was made after Victoria Eugenia Henao, Escobar's wife, and his two children, Juan Pablo and Manuela, arrived in Medellin aboard an express flight from Santa Fe de Bogota amid tight security. Escobar's wife and children stayed no longer than two hours at the vigil and hastily left the place, surrounded by a protective cordon formed by dozens of agents from the Prosecutor General's Office and the national police. [passage omitted]

In Medellin and its surroundings, the authorities and the Search Bloc—a group of police, military, and intelligence forces—are patrolling the city around the clock to prevent any disruption of public order.

### Escobar Buried 3 Dec

*PA0312232293 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2233 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 3 Dec (NOTIMEX)—The body of Colombian narcotrafficker Pablo Escobar was buried this afternoon, after authorities denied his family's request to postpone the funeral for 24 hours. The Army forcibly removed the casket from the "Montesacro" cemetery funeral parlor in Medellin, which was occupied the night before by hundreds of people—mostly poor people who wanted to bid a final farewell to the world's most feared narcotrafficker.

The family of the late Colombian mafia leader decided at midday to postpone his burial until Saturday in light of the disturbances staged by the crowds who wanted to have one last close look at Escobar. Security forces, however, occupied the funeral parlor where the body of the Medellin Cartel leader lay and proceeded to bury him.

"The body could not remain unburied any longer in the funeral parlor for security reasons," one officer who participated in the military operation told NOTIMEX. The multimillionaire drug lord, who escaped on 22 July 1992 from the Envigado Prison near Medellin, was killed yesterday by a special commando unit that hunted him for 17 months.

The burial of the head of the most powerful narcotrafficking organization in the world was attended only by his mother Hermilda Gaviria and the priest who officiated a brief ceremony, a cemetery employee stated.

The soldiers established a security cordon around the cemetery to prevent access by some 5,000 people, including a group of Mariachis hired to sing songs to Escobar such as "I Am Still the King."

"There was total chaos, a large part of the park adorning the cemetery was destroyed by the people," one undertaker said. The enraged crowds also shattered the windows in the funeral parlor, while foreign journalists covering the drug lord's funeral were attacked by agents guarding the area.

### 'Isolated Scuffles' Precede Burial

*PA0312234493 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 2225 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[From the "Information Firefly" newscast]

[Text] Pablo Escobar Gaviria, the Medellin Cartel leader shot to death yesterday by Colombian police, was buried today in a hurried ceremony. His wife and children were unable to be at the ceremony because of a great number of people at the Montesacro Cemetery, all of whom wanted to say goodbye to one of the most wanted criminals in the world. Authorities estimated that 10,000- 20,000 people converged on the cemetery to attend Escobar's funeral. The funeral had originally been set for 1300, then 1500, and then for tomorrow, according to a request by the family. The government, however, pressed for the funeral to take place today.

Pablo Escobar was buried this afternoon at Montesacro Cemetery following intervention by 4th Brigade troops and some isolated scuffles. The late Medellin Cartel leader was killed by the Search Bloc on Thursday in a building in the Los Olivos neighborhood in western Medellin. The burial took place with no previous religious ceremony and in the absence of his wife Victoria Eugenia and children Juan Pablo and Manuela.

The disorderly crowd, which had gathered at the cemetery early in the day, broke all security measures ordered by police and the family. They gained access to the casket containing the mortal remains of Pablo Escobar and carried it on their shoulders to the cemetery chapel. Following cries and singing—some in favor of Escobar and others calling for peace in the country—4th Brigade reinforcements recovered Escobar Gaviria's casket and moved it to the family burial grounds, where it was finally interred.

Government forces had to enforce a special security cordon around the tomb to allow the burial to take place. The crowd gradually left the area, although many people who could not get close during the funeral ceremony are still waiting to gain access when the cemetery gates reopen.

Escobar's lieutenant Alvaro de Jesus Agudelo, who also died in the Search Bloc operation, and his second cousin Gustavo Gaviria, who was killed by unidentified individuals in the Guayaval neighborhood, were also buried today at Montesacro Cemetery.

### Salvadoran President Clarifies Statement on Escobar Family

*PA0312160893 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1448 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani, who concluded his visit to Colombia a few minutes ago, referred to the Search Bloc operation that resulted in the death of Pablo Escobar, head of the Medellin Cartel. The Central American president characterized the result of that operation as an important step in Colombia's counternarcotics effort, in which everyone must participate:

[Begin recording] On behalf of the Salvadoran Government and people, I want to congratulate the Colombian people on yesterday's event, which was the result of many efforts and the use of many resources. I believe the success of that operation constitutes an important step in the struggle that not only Colombia but all of us must wage against drug trafficking.

Yesterday, in response to a hypothetical question—I say hypothetical because it was asked before it was known that Escobar had been killed—we said that if an individual or family request were received, we would not process it. However, if the Colombian Government made a request and we could help the country resolve a problem, then we would be prepared to study the matter.

I want to make it clear, however, that Colombia has made no request of El Salvador, and El Salvador has made no offer to Colombia. My answer was in response to a hypothetical question. [end recording]

### Prosecutor General Says Cali Cartel Members Must Surrender

*PA0412015593 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[Report by Javier Dario Restrepo from the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] After Pablo Escobar's death, rumors about the possible surrender of Cali Cartel members are circulating stronger. We interviewed Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff on the subject today, who says that the Cali Cartel members have no alternative: They must surrender or else.

[Begin de Greiff recording, in progress] ....that they are willing to surrender to justice, settle their situation within the law, and become useful citizens. I trust that this will happen. I hope so.

During the past week, I have received formal messages from them in which they have expressed this desire. If they do not surrender, we will invariably continue to pursue them, and I am sure they will fall sooner or later. [end recording]

De Greiff said that although the Search Bloc was successful in yesterday's operation, its continuation is not justified.

[Begin de Greiff recording] I believe it has already fulfilled its mission, because the main problem was Pablo Escobar. The regular security and intelligence organizations should resume their specific roles and perform their own duties. [end recording]

### Gaviria Says Struggle Against Drug Trafficking To Continue

*PA0412042493 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0245 GMT 3 Dec*

["Exclusive interview" with Colombian President Cesar Gaviria by an unidentifed reporter at Narino Palace in Santa Fe de Bogota on 3 December; from the "CM& News" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] President Gaviria, you say you woke up visibly happy today. More than a triumph, Pablo Escobar's demise is a relief to you. Mr. President, would it be correct to say that the Search Bloc will cut back its operations in Medellin and instead concentrate on Cali?

[Gaviria] No. The Search Bloc will continue its work. Our goal in Medellin is to dismantle the criminal infrastructure that time has existed in the city for some time. All drug cartels must see that recent incidents prove the Colombian state is much more powerful than any criminal organization.

[Reporter] There has been talk about possible retaliation and reprisals. Will special measures be taken at this time?

[Gaviria] Yes, measures have already been taken. It is possible there could be retaliation. I believe, however, that necessary precautions have been taken and that the weight of the law will fall on anyone who tries to carry out any such actions.

[Reporter] Finally, Mr. President, one day after Pablo Escobar's death, what is your message to the rest of the world, particularly to those countries that have struggled with Colombia?

[Gaviria] We express our gratitude to countries that have cooperated with us, although during the most difficult moments of this struggle, we have felt as if we were alone. I believe Colombia undoubtedly is the country that has made the greatest sacrifice and has obtained the most results. What we expect now is for the international community to do its part, to work in the struggle against the consumption of drugs, to work against drug trafficking, and to strengthen multilateral instruments.

### President Says Escobar Received 'Punishment He Deserved'

*PA0512042893 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[From the "NTC News" newscast]

[Text] President Gaviria made an unexpected trip to Medellin this morning. He has just announced that the 5 billion [currency not specified] reward will be used for funds to help the victims of violence.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo has just said that drug trafficker Pablo Escobar Gaviria did not die as a hero and simply got the punishment he deserved. During an unexpected visit to the 4th Army Brigade in Medellin, Gaviria awarded the Cross of Boyaca to the Search Bloc commanders: Army Commander Major General Hernan Jose Guzman; Major General Octavio Vargas Silva, the Colombian Police assistant director general; and to the Search Bloc members who killed Pablo Escobar.

[Gaviria] Escobar was not a hero; he was a criminal who received the punishment he deserved—the rejection of a nation burdened by his crimes.

[Reporter] President Gaviria praised the courage of the people of Antioquia, who for years faced the terrorism and violence sowed by the Medellin Cartel. According to Gaviria, with Escobar's death the Medellin Cartel should disappear. Gaviria greeted and exchanged views with Search Bloc members and reminded them that they are the ones who inspire faith in the institutions. [end recording]

### Defense Minister Says Democracy 'Safe' After Escobar's Death

*PA0412152693 Paris AFP in Spanish 2149 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] La Paz, 3 Dec (AFP)—Colombian Defense Minister Rafael Pardo said today democracy in his country and other Latin American countries "is safe after the tragic death of drug trafficker Pablo Escobar Gaviria the afternoon of 2 December in Medellin." Pardo's statement was broadcast in La Paz and other Bolivian cities in a telephone interview with Radio Panamericana on 3 December.

During the telephone conversation, Minister Pardo said the "homicidal violence" that afflicted his country for years "indiscriminately killing candidates, judges, police, and journalists—all of them opposed to Escobar's criminal activities—finally ended with his death." He added that "the tragic 2 December outcome" was the result of a carefully organized search carried out by intelligence organizations and the Colombian Army for several months.

With regard to members of the Escobar family who were expelled from Germany earlier this week, Pardo said this matter must be handled by the Colombian Prosecutor General's Office, as well as the threats of vengeance made by Escobar's son Juan Pablo Escobar, which he later retracted.

Asked if someone could replace Escobar as leader of the Medellin Cartel, Pardo ruled out that possibility, saying that the once powerful criminal organization cannot be reorganized "because its main leaders are in jail."

### Prosecutor General Criticizes U.S. Envoy's Remarks on Drug Cartels

*PA0512024693 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1724 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[Report on an interview with Colombian Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff by an unidentified reporter; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] The United States has no reason to tell Colombia what it must do regarding the war on drug cartels, Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff has stated, referring to remarks by U.S. Ambassador in Colombia Morris Busby. Busby has stated that the Colombian Government must [words indistinct].

[Begin recording] [De Greiff] I agree with them that we must fight all sorts of crime. I do think, however, that they are not the ones who should tell us what to do, because we are already doing that. If by giving us that advice, they are implying that we are not, they are very wrong.

[Reporter] The U.S. ambassador also said for the time being his country does not consider viable your proposal to legalize drug consumption. Are you alone in that position?

[De Greiff] I feel at ease regarding the soundness of my remark. We will wait to see how things develop. History will tell who is right.

[Reporter] Much has been said regarding the disappearance of the Medellin Cartel. Has it disappeared with the death of drug lord Pablo Escobar?

[De Greiff] We must continue the struggle and help Medellin. All social classes must contribute to provide job opportunities and help those people return to society and the path of justice.

[Reporter] News dispatches are citing a radio station's report that Pablo Escobar's family had to be evacuated from Tequendama Hotel due to a bomb threat; what do you know about it?

[De Greiff] That is not true. I ask all media to be very calm and responsible in reporting the news. Carrying false news on alleged attempts does the country no good; it does no good to anybody, much less to Colombia, which at this time has scored a major victory in the war against crime.

[Reporter] To conclude, does your office continue to cooperate in protecting Escobar's widow and two children?

[De Greiff] We are offering partial support to the police, providing that security does not fall within our responsibility. We are cooperating with the government for the sake of peace in the country. [end recording]

## President Leaves for Chile; To Sign Free Trade Agreement

*PA0612055193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[From the "NTC News" newscast]

[Text] President Cesar Gaviria left for Chile this morning to implement a free trade agreement. The Colombian and Chilean Governments tomorrow will sign a free trade agreement that will allow the imports of products between the two countries at very low prices starting in January 1994.

President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo, who left from Catan Military Base for Santiago, Chile, early this morning to meet with his counterpart, Patricio Aylwin, said this treaty will set the example for Central American countries.

[Begin Gaviria recording] It is a very important agreement for Colombia, which represents the expansion of our markets. It is part of an overall process that is occurring on this continent, which is to move toward a free trade zone. [end recording]

The Colombian president said this free trade agreement will allow for greater competition in products, especially in the areas of industry and heavy machinery.

## Brazilian Foreign Minister Visits; Interviewed on Trade, Coffee

*PA0512004793 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 27 Nov 93, p 3-A*

[Report on an interview with Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim by an unidentified reporter; place and date not given—first five paragraphs EL TIEMPO introduction]

[Excerpts] The arrival of Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim to Colombia could not possibly be just another visit among the varied list of high-ranking officials who visit the country. [passage omitted]

Amorim came to Colombia with two objectives in mind: One of them is the turnover of the temporary (pro tempore) secretariat of the Ibero-American Presidents Summit, which Colombia must hold in Cartagena in June of next year. The other is the signing of the memorandum of agreement to create the Binational Neighborhood Commissions. Shortly, Colombia and Brazil will begin working on—with the same methods used in the neighborhood commissions used to begin the integration processes with Venezuela, Ecuador, and recently, Panama—the most urgent aspects of common interest.

"Our objective is to make the border not just a separating line but an opportunity for cooperation," said the foreign minister.

He adds: "We have a great common border and believe that there are opportunities for cooperation in the environmental and urban fields and in transportation between neighboring cities. We could cooperate also in controlling drug traffic and in other areas to develop a scarcely inhabited area in Brazil and Colombia, which for that same reason deserves special attention so that its execution is not done in a wild and disorderly manner."

Due to all of the above, the foreign minister's visit, optimists hope, will also be a sign of a new era in relations.

[EL TIEMPO] How are Colombian-Brazilian commercial relations?

[Amorim] Bilateral trade amounts to $400 to $500 million, which greatly favors Brazil. Imports and exports have increased, but the difference in Brazil's favor remains. I believe it is important to diversify this trade, and this is already occurring. In the past, when one spoke of trade with Colombia, it meant only coal; today, there is a

considerable number of manufactured products. I believe that this will increase with the possible signing of an agreement Brazil has proposed within the framework of the Latin American Integration Association (Aladi).

[EL TIEMPO] What is this proposal?

[Amorim] The idea is to have bilateral agreements, or in certain cases, to involve more than one country, such as the Andean Pact. Actually, bilateral agreements are sought with the various Amazon area countries, including some that are not Andean Pact members, such as Guyana and Suriname but are also Amazonian. [sentence as published] We already have Mercosur [Common Market of the South] in South America and the Andean Pact, and there are already initiatives between Argentina and Chile and Brazil and Chile. All of these processes could converge into a free trade area, not a common market, which assumes a common foreign trade policy. What President Franco is proposing is a free trade area within a 10-year period.

[EL TIEMPO] What message does the Brazilian Government bring to the Colombian Government as far as coffee is concerned?

[Amorim] It is important to reaffirm the Brazilian Government's position to keep within the framework of the agreement signed and to continue the 20 percent retention policy to regulate the coffee market.

[EL TIEMPO] There are doubts in Colombia over the effectiveness of the Brazilian retentions.

[Amorim] There is no cause for doubt, because there really have not been any exports recently, and, in addition, the Brazilian Monetary Board made a very important decision two or three days ago, changing what used to be a loan for exports into a purchase by the government of 1 million coffee sacks, which is almost half of what was established.

[EL TIEMPO] With the Coffee Institute closed, will a Brazilian organization be created to be in charge of guaranteeing compliance with the retention agreement?

[Amorim] Brazil has not yet defined its official position on this matter, although the Industry, Commerce, and Tourism Ministry is still the entity handling this matter and will have the means to do so.

[EL TIEMPO] Has Brazil experienced a noticeable improvement in prices with the new system?

[Amorim] Yes. Everything depends on the period about which one is talking. If we consider from the start of the negotiation process, the prices of our coffee rose a little over 40 percent to $0.70, more or less.

[EL TIEMPO] Is the Brazilian Government prepared to keep out of the market the coffee it has in stock [preceding word in English]?

[Amorim] Of course, within the agreed upon principles.

## Venezuela's Caldera Promises Solution to Marine Dispute

*PA0612065393 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 6 Dec 93*

[Report on interview with Venezuelan President-elect Rafael Caldera by an unidentified reporter from the "TV Today" newscast; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Rafael Caldera, the new Venezuelan president-elect, has promised a rapid, negotiated solution to the marine dispute with Colombia. He prefers to describe the dispute as a demarcation of borders. Caldera spoke with "TV Today:"

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr. President [as heard], as for foreign police, specifically with Colombia, what will you do?

[Caldera] I can tell you that President Pastrana governed Colombia when I was president of Venezuela. He knows how our relations were. From those political relations, a personal friendship emerged, and it honors me. I can state that the Colombians who know me are aware that I am a proven friend of Colombia and that on this occasion my policy toward Colombia will be even more cordial, if possible, than what it was during my first administration.

[Reporter] Will the border dispute be resolved during your administration?

[Caldera] I hope so. I have never wanted to use the word dispute. I prefer to use the word delimitation; it is a process of delimitation. I do not think it is a reason for confrontation, as it has sometimes been on the verge of breaking out between two brother countries. I have said that if an international contest was ever held to give an award to border countries that have had the best conduct, Venezuela and Colombia would win a gold medal. Two countries with such an extensive border and such a difficult and complicated border situation have maintained relations in the way we have are really an exception in the world; that is why this issue must be resolved through dialogue. Our Colombian friends need to understand that for Venezuela, this is a vital issue; that for Venezuela, the Gulf of Venezuela is such a key issue, as if the Bogota Savanna were being discussed.

[Reporter] Mr. President, what will you do about drug trafficking and the guerrillas on the border?

[Caldera] A serious and responsible planned action is necessary. It is a responsibility shared by the two governments. There are certain locations on the border where it is thought that a strip that is neither Venezuelan nor Colombian has been established and that belongs to the guerrillas and drug traffickers and where, in certain cases, civilian authorities have been replaced by the merchants of violence. This is a delicate problem that requires much effort, but I am willing to execute it because the farmers and ranchers of certain border areas are suffering a great deal. [end recording]

### * FENALCO Questions Benefits From 'Apertura'

*94SM0100A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Oct 93 p 3B*

[Article by Marcela Escobar Ramirez: "The Liberalization Did Not Revive the Economy"]

[Text] Merchants who have been staunch defenders of the process of economic liberalization [apertura] have now expressed concern because the structural changes adopted by this government have not revived the economy.

According to the National Federation of Businessmen (FENALCO), if one discounts the Cusiana effect, the economy grew at a rate of 4 percent in the 1990's, which does not represent any significant progress over the so-called "lost decade" (3.4 percent). This behavior "brings the benefits of the liberalization into question" and provides fuel for sectors that "are pointing their fingers" at the process of internationalizing the economy, according to the document titled "Apertura and Economic Policy" presented by the guild to the 48th national assembly of the sector being held in Pereira.

Nor does FENALCO believe that the average growth rate of 4.9 percent that will be registered by the gross domestic product when the Cusiana effect is included is satisfactory.

The guild is troubled by the fact that the government would say that the Colombian economy will not recover in the years ahead, when the purpose of the sweeping changes was precisely to achieve high growth rates.

#### No Recession

As far as the 1993 results are concerned, FENALCO maintains that despite the complaints of certain sectors, it could not be said that there are any signs of a recession.

It notes that industry has a growth rate of 6 percent, that vigorous activity continues in construction, and that polls of businessmen reflect optimism.

However, it does recognize that certain industries such as textiles, coffee, some exporters, and the agricultural sector are experiencing problems.

In addition, it explains that the Colombian economy is already feeling the effects of the liberalization. Not only has foreign trade grown, but consumer habits are changing, as retail sales show. Although sales of food and beverages are increasing slowly, those of such durable goods as vehicles, furniture, electrical appliances, books, records, and toys have shot up.

It notes that for this reason and because of changing demand, the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) will have to update its methods of calculating the consumer price index.

DANE should modify how it weights the sites where it makes its purchases and revise the nature of the typical urban family food basket, the document says.

#### Erroneous Figures

In addition, FENALCO has expressed harsh criticisms of projections made by the Planning Department and the public and private sectors in general based on different economic variables.

It showed how, over the past four years, National Planning has erred significantly in its calculations of economic growth, inflation, and the exchange situation based on the results actually obtained.

The high margin of error is disproportionate to the logistical infrastructure, human resources, and information available to the agency, FENALCO says.

While the average real growth of the GDP was 3.35 percent during the period under study, Planning's figure was 3.7 percent, a margin of error of 10 percent.

As for inflation, it projected an annual average of 23 percent, while the real result was 27.6 percent, a margin of error of 20 percent.

"One could conclude that all these studies prevent National Planning from seeing the situation of certain sectors such as energy. Its plan of peaceful revolution devotes no more than 10 lines to the so-called surplus energy capacity at a time when we are on the brink of a crisis of historic proportions. Planning learned of the crisis through the media rather than from any warnings issued by its chief, who has a seat on the board of directors of the ISA [Electric Interconnection, Inc.], the FENALCO document states.

The guild also questions Planning's influence on economic policy decisions since, even though the agency said there would be no income tax increases, the government paid no attention and imposed the tax reform.

For FENALCO, the erroneous projections damage the private sector because many companies use the data to draw up their budgets and programs.

"The credibility of economic policy specialists, beginning with the bureaucrats in the Central Government, deserves a stiff challenge because instead of shedding light on economic indicators, they muddy them."

Finally, it recommends that businessmen use economic projections made by the government and the academy with great circumspection.

## Ecuador

### Atmosphere of 'Violence,' 'Chaos' Felt in Quito, Guayaquil

*PA0312160293 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2229 GMT 2 Dec 93*

[Text] Quito, 2 Dec (DPA)—The strike called by 104,000 Ecuadoran public teachers reached its 60th day amid street incidents and an overall atmosphere of confusion, which maintains 1.2 million students in a complete state of uncertainty—but the end might be near.

Draft reforms to the education roster and career law were presented today to President Sixto Duran-Ballen in an effort to reach a compromise on the salary dispute which prevails between the teachers and the government. The document's approval was considered "very probable" today by Interior Minister Marcelo Santos.

Nevertheless, dozens of public schools and high schools all over the country remained today under military protection, in an attempt to stop the teachers—organized in the leftist National Union of Teachers—from forcing students to return home, thus preventing the resumption of activities.

However, the atmosphere of violence and chaos, felt particularly in Quito and Guayaquil, the largest Ecuadoran cities, resulted in sparse student attendance, so classes are still partially suspended although a mobilization order was implemented on Tuesday.

The government, which had given a 2 December deadline for the strike's suspension and threatened firing the strike participants, today avoided all reference to the issue—while paid ads in the most important newspapers asserted over half of the public schools had resumed classes. "Thank you, Ecuador, for your extraordinary reply to the government's appeal for the resumption of classes," it was stated in a government ad headline, which was termed "ridiculous" by the teachers union.

An unspecified number of teachers—according to local media versions the number has dropped to 35—continue the hunger strike started on 15 November to strengthen the teachers stoppage. Private and municipal teachers never ceased their work.

## National Union of Teachers Ends 2-Month Old Strike

*PA0512021693 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0131 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[Text] Quito, 4 Dec (NOTIMEX)—The National Union of Teachers (UNE) ended today their two-month old strike to demand a 50-percent salary increase.

During a news conference, UNE leader Gustavo Teran described the decision as a "victory for teachers," and he urged teachers and students to resume their work on 6 December and carry out the educational programs.

The teachers' leader said that he is sure that President Sixto Duran-Ballen's administration will fulfill its commitments on salaries, lift the sanctions against the teachers' leaders, and end the military control of schools.

Early this week, the government offered the teachers two bonuses in addition to the 15-percent increase it had offered from the beginning. The UNE ordered the strike on 4 October after the government rejected the teachers' request for a 50-percent salary increase. Due to the strike's continuation, the government dismissed approximately 50 teachers' leaders, declared a state of emergency, and placed the country's schools under military control.

The strike affected 2 million students of public schools at the preschool, elementary, and secondary levels. Private schools operated normally.

## President Approves Law To Promote Foreign Investments

*PA0412180493 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[From "The Voz Andes" newscast]

[Text] Quito—President Sixto Duran-Ballen has approved and implemented reforms to the oil law. The reforms are aimed at encouraging foreign investment and technology to search for oil.

The reforms had been proposed by the government in the framework of a program for structural changes and had been sent to Congress in October. The legislators approved it one week ago and returned it to the president for his final sanction.

The new law, now included in the official registry, contains contract mechanisms that grant benefits based on production in order to encourage the search and exploitation of oil in the jungle and along the coast and the sea bed.

The government endorsed a disposition established by the deputies that prohibits transferring control of the assets and installations owned by the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Enterprise [Petroecuador] or its subsidiaries. Congress and the Executive Branch also decided that Petroecuador will operate and maintain control over the oil pipeline networks and the oil refineries as well as over whatever expansion is made to these installations.

## * Drugs Intended for Inmates Seized

*94WD0098Y Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 28 Oct 93 p 18 Section 1*

[Text] Quito—During the past few hours, Interpol personnel from Pichincha captured four persons in this city with 530 grams of cocaine base, intended for inmates at the No. 2 Men's Prison located on Ambato Street.

First, in the vicinity of the aforementioned prison center, the Ecuadoran nationals Juan Quito Alcocer, aged 25, and Pedro Quishpe Otavalo, 28, were arrested while passing through the area in a suspicious manner. They apparently were waiting for a chance to take the cocaine into the jail. When they were searched, a black case in which they had concealed the drugs was discovered.

Arrested later were Nancy Oliva Burbano, aged 26, and Carmen Narcisa Hidalgo Gine, 20. The latter was captured at the entrance to the same prison, while being searched before her admission to the jail premises. Two small cases containing cocaine were found in the right pocket of her slacks.

Hidalgo claimed that the drugs had been given to her by Nancy Burbano, who was immediately apprehended at the same prison center while visiting a male relative.

**Drugged Persons Cause Accident**

Others arrested were the Venezuelans, Sebastian Javier Alonso Ramirez, aged 26, and Julio Cesar Perez, 25, as well as the Ecuadoran, Byron Peralta Ceme, 18.

While under the influence of drugs, these three individuals were driving a Suzuki vehicle at high speed on Occidental Avenue. Because of their condition, they were involved in a spectacular traffic accident from which they miraculously emerged unharmed.

Found in the car owned by Alonso Ramirez were two plastic cases containing cocaine paste, several tablets, and a camera case in which more drugs were concealed.

Also discovered in Alonso's possession were a Venezuelan passport, $300, and a Consolidated Bank checkbook; whereas Perez Diaz was carrying a passport, $300, and 28,000 Venezuelan bolivares.

**Marijuana User**

The police also reported the arrest of Fernando Rommel Espin, aged 23. When this subject, who has a record of two previous arrests, noticed the police presence, he discarded an envelope which, when picked up by the agents, was found to contain marijuana.

**At the Airport**

During the past few hours, Interpol forces from Pichincha also arrested two individuals with a large amount of drugs in their possession.

Captured at the local airport was the Portuguese, Francisco Manoel da Costa Santos, aged 32, who was attempting to take six kg of cocaine out of the country. The drugs, concealed in five decorative figurines with Egyptian motifs, previously coated with mustard, were bound for the Portuguese capital, Lisbon.

**Ecuadoran Caught**

The Ecuadoran, Carlos Velastegui Sanchez, aged 30, was caught in the La Forestal section of this city with 109 envelopes containing cocaine in his possession.

This subject was driving through the area accompanied by Hernan Quintanilla.

## * Prison Population 39 Percent Drug Traffickers

*94WD0098Z Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 28 Oct 93 p 18 Section 1*

[Text] Quito—Drug trafficking is the crime most often committed in the country, and its perpetrators are the ones filling the existing national jails. According to official data, 3,325 persons have been reported as arrested on this charge, representing 39.11 percent of the total prison population. As of last September, the latter had reached 8,533 inmates.

Of that number, the majority of prisoners are of Colombian nationality, exceeding 300, with smaller proportions of Peruvians, Spaniards, and individuals from at least 20 other nations.

It has also been determined that 99 percent of those arrested for this crime are not members of powerful drug trafficking organizations. They are, rather, the so-called "mules" or "human ants," engaged in third or fourth-hand operations, such as small-scale marketing, or transport associated with trafficking drugs through Ecuadoran territory for export to the United States and Europe.

The police claim that only about 10 prominent persons linked with the "Three Magi" organization and the Medrandas have been imprisoned, while the majority of "capos" are, for the most part, still fugitives outside the country.

**Prisoners by Zones**

Guayas district, including Galapagos, reports 869 persons jailed for drug dealing; Pichincha, including Napo and Sucumbios, has 890 prisoners; Manabi, 301; Esmeraldas, 368; Los Rios, 148; El Oro, 269; Imbabura, 114; Azuay, including Morona Santiago, 87; Loja, including Zamora Chinchipe, 90; Tungurahua, including Pastaza, 44; Carchi, 112; Chimborazo, 15; Cotopaxi, nine; and Canar, nine. Bolivar district reports no incarcerations.

The Criminal Proceedings Control Commission of the Supreme Court of Justice prepared this report, which also notes that 29 persons are awaiting imprisonment for committing crimes involving fraud or misuse of public sector funds or assets.

**Other Crimes**

One infers from the study that there are 2,743 persons in custody for attacks on property; 1,713, for crimes against human life; 457, for sexual crimes; 70, for breach of the public trust; six, for kidnapping; 11, for arms trafficking; 35, for traffic accidents; and 113, for other types of crimes.

**Slow Proceedings**

Nationally, of the total proceedings reported with detentions, 3,573 are in the summary phase, the purpose of which is to hold hearings aimed at discovering the infraction, and its perpetrators, accomplices, and concealers. It is also intended to carry out the necessary procedural action for seizing the accused personally, as well as his assets, for payment of fines, costs, and indemnification, and to take any other steps deemed essential for ascertaining the truth.

A total of 275 proceedings are in the intermediate phase; 170 have had a stay; 290 have progressed to the opening of the full trial; 313 are in the full trial phase; and 3,065 have concluded, with the respective judgments for those liable.

**Fifteen Hundred Prisoners Released**

The investigating commission, chaired by Magistrate Carlos Romo, also includes Drs. Manuel Viteri and Raul

Coronel, who paid visits to the country's various prison centers to perform their tasks.

In its report sent to the president of the Supreme Court, the commission stressed that 1,500 prisoners have regained their freedom since 9 September. This resulted from the prison census, which prompted an acceleration of the trying and deciding of many criminal cases in which persons were detained. It resulted in the repeal of preventive imprisonment, and a reduction in the prison population at the Quito and Guayaquil Temporary Detention Centers, with a ban on the admission of inmates against whom there was no constitutional writ for deprivation of liberty. It also caused judges to implement the legal provisions for deprivation of liberty, required the serving of prison terms, and brought about actual reductions in sentences, thereby permitting the release of hundreds of prisoners.

## Paraguay

### Senad Chief Warned To Cease Making Remarks to Media

*PY0312180593 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 3 Dec 93 p 7*

[Text] Division General Mario Rodolfo Escobar Anzaotegui, who has tendered his resignation as secretary general of the National Antidrug Secretariat (Senad), has been warned by the Army Command that he is open to some type of punishment if he continues to make remarks to the media, according to Staff Command sources.

According to the information given at the Army Command, Escobar Anzaotegui has been reminded that he on the active duty list of the Armed Forces despite the fact that the Promotions Board last week decided to put him on the retired list. According to our sources, Escobar Anzaotegui was reminded that until the appropriate decree regarding his being put on the retired list has been signed, he must submit to military discipline, which forbids officers on active duty, with the exception of the commander of military forces, to make remarks to the media.

### Officers Being 'Pressured'

*PY0312175493 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 3 Dec 93 p 8*

[Text] Military sources who prefer to remain anonymous, because they fear reprisals, indicated on 2 December that all the officers who have been appointed to important posts in the National Antidrug Secretariat (Senad), or who have been transferred to other posts by Armed Forces Commander in Chief Juan Carlos Wasmosy, are allegedly being pressured by Division General Lino Cesar Oviedo not to say anything if they are asked by the media for the reasons for the changes that have been made in the organization.

According to this information Colonel Eugenio Morel, liaison secretary for Senad, is the officer receiving the "greatest harassment" from the Army commander in chief, due to the serious disagreement they supposedly had at the military parade in front of Colorado Party headquarters to commemorate the 2-3 February coup that toppled the Stroessner dictatorship.

It is known publicly that Morel refused to participate in that parade, alleging physical impairment, but the fact is that he was not in agreement with the participation of the military in a political ceremony organized by the Colorado Party, something that was learned subsequently.

Morel's "disobedience" determined his being relieved as commander of the Air Force's Parachute Unit and his transfer to the force's Staff Command, where he occupied minor posts until Division General Mario Rodolfo Escobar Anzaotegui recruited him for the organization that is combating drug trafficking and money laundering in the country.

### Government Making 'Frontal Assault' Against Laundering

*PY0312175893 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 3 Dec 93 p 9*

[Article by special correspondents Nestor D. Escobar Franco and Eduardo Franco and by the regional bureau]

[Excerpts] Ciudad del Este—President Juan Carlos Wasmosy admitted on 2 December that Benito Abadie, the owner of the clandestine air strip that was discovered in the jurisdiction of Hernandarias, is a relative of his. [passage omitted] He also admitted that money laundering exists in our country, stating that his government is "making a frontal assault against that." He also asked the media to consider "the positive aspects." [passage omitted]

Asked whether dollars are laundered in Paraguay, he answered that the topic is in fashion today, and that there are people saying that the government is doing nothing. He moreover stressed that the government is making a frontal assault against this crime. "The U.S. Government, however, gives us barely $37,000 with which to face powerful organizations," he added. [passage omitted]

## Peru

### Shooting Reported at U.S. Embassy; Neigborhood Leader Slain

*PA0312230493 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2155 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Excerpts] Lima, 3 Dec (NOTIMEX)—A neighborhood leader was assassinated today in this capital and a rebel commando unit of Shining Path occupied a foreign news agency, as part of a number of subversive actions that have taken place in Lima.

Unidentified armed men this morning killed Fernando Reyes Castaneda, leader of the "Tupac Amaru" neighborhood in Villa Chorrillos, south of the Peruvian capital, in which a state of emergency was declared nearly seven years ago. Police reported that the neighborhood leader was found dead in his home. He had been shot several times.

Meanwhile, one person was wounded during a shootout [tiroteo] that took place in front of the U.S. Embassy which was guarded by military personnel and private security guards. The source indicated that the incident took place when a vehicle driving around the diplomatic mission refused to heed orders to stop and the guards opened fire, wounding one passengers in the right leg.

The U.S. Embassy in Lima has been attacked by subversives twice within the past three years. The most recent attack took place on 27 July of this year, when a car bomb caused the death of two agents and extensive damage to the building.

Meanwhile, three Shining Path rebels, including two women, occupied the AFP news agency offices in the center of Lima and, after subduing its personnel, transmitted a long message overseas. In its message, the subversive organization denied its capitulation in the so-called "popular war" it began in 1980 and recognized the leadership of Abimael Guzman, who is currently serving a life sentence in a high security jail in Peru. [passage omitted]

Today's subversive actions coincide with the commemoration of the 59th birthday of Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman.

### Daily Reports Borders in 'Top Alert' Due to Escobar Death

*PA0512033293 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1516 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[Text] Lima, 4 December (DPA)—The daily "LA REPUBLICA" reported today that the Peruvian borders, especially those with Colombia, were placed in "top alert" due to drug trafficker Pablo Escobar Gaviria's death. The report stated that Armed Forces sources had confirmed the measure, which had been ordered when they received information that Escobar had been killed in a confrontation with Colombian police. The sources added that based on this information they had decided to implement the POV (Existent Operations Plan) [Plan de Operaciones Vigentes], which is only used in cases of "extreme gravity."

The POV was implemented not only to impede Escobar's cronies from entering the country but because, according to intelligence reports, many people who have ties with the Medellin Cartel have been residing in Peru for a long time. The source said the drug organization's middlemen will attempt to disappear from the scene due to the impact caused by Escobar's demise. Thus, very strict measures have been adopted at all the points of entry, by land or air, to Peru, the source added.

The operation is centered in the Alto Huallaga area, where it is known that hundreds of Colombian and Peruvian drug traffickers supply cocaine base to the Medellin Cartel. The drug traffickers have their bases near the jungle and have several clandestine airports in operation.

"LA REPUBLICA" says 14 airports in Huallaga where placed in top security alert, especially those at the Pucallpa, Tocache, Santa Lucia, and Santa Maria Bases. As its first measure, the Armed Forces has sent 35 airplanes, including helicopters, Tucano planes, and A-37 Dragonfly attack jets, to the area and has increased its diurnal and nocturnal surveillance patrols. This defense action has received international cooperation from the Armed Forces in the southern hemisphere. The Colombian Army and Air Force are kept abreast of the POV operation continuously, and there is a permanent exchange of information. The daily reveals that the U.S. Army and Air Force are cooperating fully with Colombia and Peru through their base in Panama and that DEA personnel have been assigned to strategic areas in Alto Huallaga.

### Government Extends State of Emergency in Puno Department

*PA0412162893 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1542 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[Text] Lima, 4 Dec (DPA)—It was announced today that the Peruvian Government has extended for 60 days the state of emergency in the Provinces of Carabaya, Sandia, and San Antonio de Putina, in Puno Department, southeast of Lima, on the border with Bolivia.

The government also suspended constitutional guarantees in those areas. To implement this measure, aimed at fighting subversion, the Armed Forces will assume control over public order functions, according to a decree published today in the official gazette EL PERUANO.

### Shining Path Breaks Into AFP Office, Dictates Communique

*PA0312164393 Paris AFP in Spanish 1610 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Lima, 3 Dec (AFP)—An armed Shining Path command broke into the AFP offices in this capital this morning and forced the personnel to make known a communique in which the organization reaffirms its "unyielding decision to continue the people's war at the service of the world's revolution and in compliance with our commitment to die for President Gonzalo."

One man and two women, all approximately 30 years old and each carrying a revolver, explained that they had no violent intentions. The commander of the action said: "Nothing is going to happen to you. We have nothing against reporters." The small group stayed for almost 45 minutes in the AFP offices on the 11th floor of a Lima downtown building.

After gathering the people in an office, the three forced employees to make known a lengthy communique of almost 2,000 words. The communique was dictated by the leader of the group to one of the AFP editors.

### IPEN Exports Radioactive Material to U.S., Ecuador

*PY0312192093 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 19 Nov 93 p A11*

[Excerpts] Dr. Conrado Seminario, the Peruvian Institute of Nuclear Energy (IPEN) executive director, reported on

18 November that IPEN has exported radioactive material produced in the "Racso" [Oscar Miro Quesada de la Guerra] Nuclear Center in Huarangal to the United States and, more recently, to Ecuador.

Seminario pointed out that the Huarangal center has enough production capabilities, but its main duty is to promote research and development among Peruvian University professors and students.

Seminario said IPEN does not have any mortgage obligations or indebtedness to Argentina, whose technicians installed the "Racso" Nuclear Center. The current debt is between governments and is handled normally. [passage omitted]

Concerning the Santa Anita irradiation plant, Seminario said 65 percent of the infrastructure has been completed. The equipment's arrival will be authorized when 85 percent of the infrastructure has been completed.

A 1.7 billion-sole appropriation is required to complete the infrastructure and purchase the complementary equipment. The plant's main equipment is under construction in Russia. It will cost $1.2 million. This equipment will be donated by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The IAEA also has sent a purchase order for $160,000 for the cobalt-60 the plant will require.

Perishable foodstuffs will be irradiated at the plant in order to preserve them for export. Roots, for example, may be preserved for eight months without spoiling. According to their natural properties, fruits have different preservative lives.

## Fujimori's Call for National Unity Elicits Reactions

*PY0312212293 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 20 Nov 93 p 3*

[Text] Former APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] lawmaker Mercedes Cabanillas said she wished the call for unity made by President Alberto Fujimori "was sincere and permanent, a show of responsibility and not a maneuver."

"My first impression is that he stopped to reflect, and this is good. The search for unity is an objective that many opposition leaders have advocated," the former education minister said.

Cabanillas said she fully agrees with the matters on which the president called for unity, although she was rather skeptical about the true objectives of the president's initiative.

Cabanillas said that promoting the economy, fomenting domestic and foreign investment, and fighting corruption are objectives sought by all good Peruvians and they demand concrete action.

She suggested seeking unity through an agenda in which priority items should be pacification with development, democratic regionalization, strengthening municipal governments, and modern, reformed education.

"A precondition to all this, however, is that the proposal by engineer Fujimori be serious, as the expression of the responsibility of someone who governs, who is not thinking of the next elections but future generations," Cabanillas concluded.

### Sincerity

At the Democratic Constituent Congress, Julio Diaz Palacios, Roger Caceres, and Celso Sotomarino said the president's call was positive, adding that they expect the initiative to be responsible and sincere. They also demanded the participation of political parties in any dialogue toward unity.

Fernando Olivera declined to give an immediate answer on the grounds that he will first study the statements by the president.

Diaz Palacios added that in addition to the opinions of parties, the government should take into account the proposals of civilian society and institutions in order to draw up a stable and lasting agenda.

## President Fujimori Confirms Hermoza as Army Chief

*PA0612061493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1641 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Lima, 3 Dec (EFE)—President Alberto Fujimori has confirmed General Nicolas Hermoza as Peru's Army chief. Fujimori had said that based on the new Constitution, he is to review Armed Forces promotions.

By confirming Hermoza, Fujimori has ended a series of rumors that Hermoza was going to be dismissed because he is being considered "politically responsible" for the 1992 killing of nine students and a professor at Lima's La Cantuta University.

Fujimori told the media: "Gen. Hermoza Rios will continue working for the total pacification of the country." The president also announced that he is prepared to supervise the promotions to the rank of general the Army is preparing; this means that the president is assuming that the new Constitution, which was ratified by the 31 October referendum, will be promulgated before the end of this month, because otherwise Fujimori would be unable to ratify the new military commanders, who must assume their posts in January 1994.

The current Constitution, which has been in effect since 1980, establishes that promotions are proposed by the Executive Branch and must be ratified by Congress. The new Constitution states that promotions are proposed by the defense minister and ratified by the president as Armed Forces commander in chief.

Hermoza should have retired in 1992, but the government passed a law that allowed Fujimori to ratify him in his post then as he has done now.

The president has said that Hermoza will continue at the head of the Army and, probably, of the Armed Forces Joint Command, because he believes that Hermoza is necessary to give continuity to the antiterritorist strategy, which has permitted the virtual defeat of irregular armed groups.

The political opposition has always been opposed to Hermoza and defends the military tradition of renewing its commanders every year, because they believe that the military commander "has politicized" the Army.

Gen. Hermoza is believed to be Fujimori's main military ally, a man who backed the president when he decided to execute the 5 April 1992 institutional coup d'etat by means of which Fujimori closed Congress and beheaded the Judicial Branch.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Juan Briones has announced that the Army command had approved seven promotions to division general and another seven to brigade general. Briones said that the promotions had been evaluated by a jury, and "the one who will fill a vacancy will do so because he is required in that position."

The weekly CARETAS has reported that Hermoza and the "military hierarchy" decided the promotions and considered that "the politization and deinstitutionalization of the Army have had devastating effects."

This year's promotions were preceded by rumors of "concern and unrest" in the Army, attributed to groups of officers who believe they have been unjustly passed over; such rumors have been repeated in Peru since 1980, however, when democracy was restored after 12 years of military government. Apparently, the rumors are triggered by military groups interested in exerting pressure to advance their own promotions.

### Interior Minister Comments on Death of Pablo Escobar

*PA0412214193 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[From the "Global TV News" newscast]

[Text] Interior Minister General Juan Briones Davila stated today during a military event commemorating the Interior Ministry's founding anniversary that the struggle against drug trafficking is shared throughout Latin America. He added that Pablo Escobar's death in Colombia will inevitably result in a retrenchment of drug-trafficking activities in Peru.

[Begin Briones recording] As you all know, this issue is an international problem. It is a problem all countries share alike, particularly Colombia, where Pablo Escobar headed one of the drug cartels.

Undoubtedly, this will affect the existence of these drug-trafficking organizations, and I believe it will have some effect. I also believe that his death will have an indirect effect in our country. I believe that a lesson can be learned from all that has occurred—so much money and so much harm done to so many people. Undoutedbly, all of those involved in this abominable activity that harms humanity so much should reflect on the latest incidents. [end recording]

### * SL Reported To Extort Money in UK

*94WR0049Z Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 1 Nov 93 p A1*

[Text] London, 31 Oct (EFE)—The London newspaper, THE SUNDAY TIMES, reported today that the Peruvian terrorist group, Shining Path [SL], is among the criminal organizations receiving money collected through extortion from immigrant communities residing in the United Kingdom.

Sources from the National Criminal Investigation Service in the United Kingdom claim that there is evidence of a network engaged in blackmail, drug trafficking, and extortion that is obtaining money to foster terrorist attacks in Latin America, the Middle East, Turkey, India, and Ireland.

The report explains that one of the most obvious examples is the Peruvian terrorist group, Shinong Path, which is conducting a campaign of imposition aimed at the Peruvian community in London, to collect funds for its cause.

The Peruvian ambassador to the United Kingdom, Arturo Garcia, admitted the existence of this network of extortioners, whose presence has also been charged by Peruvians forced into the London drug traffic because of threats received by their relatives in Peru.

### * Government Launches Cholera Prevention Program

*94WE0089Z Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 30 Oct 93 p A7*

[Text] Yesterday, Health Minister Jaime Freundt-Thurne Oyanguren announced that his department is adopting preventive measures to avert another cholera outbreak, especially during the coming summer season.

Freundt-Thurne stressed that the Health Ministry has set as its priority the population's education, to prevent its exposure to contracting this disease again.

He claimed that, for this purpose, the status of sanitation is being improved with the installation of water and sewerage services, in some instances financed with Fonavi [National Housing Fund] resources.

He added that the incidence of cholera cases on the national level has been reduced through the sanitation measures being implemented. He admitted that the virus has ceased to be of epidemic proportions, and has become endemic.

He mentioned that, in the latest statistics for the week of 10-16 October, 622 cases of diarrheal diseases were officially reported. He remarked that 83 of them were confirmed as cholera, but that no deaths were reported.

The vice minister of health, Eduardo Young Motta, for his part, confirmed those figures, adding that the number of acute diarrheal diseases for the year in Lima alone is 28,550, with 22 fatalities.

In order to coordinate its preventive action, the Health Ministry is scheduling a series of activities with the municipalities, associated particularly with the control of street vending, considered a leading contaminating agent.

According to a timetable that is due for approval within the next few days, samples will start to be taken of foods sold on the streets, and a widespread community health education campaign will be intensified.

At the same time, doses of rehydrating salts are to be distributed, free of charge, among health centers and medical stations, especially those in human settlements. There are also supplies of serum for treating the serious cases that may appear.

**[Box, p A7]**

**The Main Propagating Factors**

The use of nonpotable water, consumption of contaminated ocean products and vegetables, and a lack of personal hygiene and sanitation in the home are the main factors spreading cholera, which afflicts persons of any age or social status.

Cholera, the scientific name of which is *vibrio cholerae*, is of bacterial origin. Its virus was discovered in 1884 by the scientist Robert Koch.

The current pandemia began at the end of January 1991, when it struck the population of Chancay primarily. Spreading rapidly among the coastal populations, weeks later it reached the interior of the country. Next, the epidemic extended to Ecuador and, subsequently, to the rest of South and Central America. There were even some "imported cases" treated in the United States.

The Peruvian experience in dealing with this disease evoked the interest of Latin American specialists, who came to Peru to learn about the treatment systems for eradicating the disease in their countries.

## Uruguay

### Lacalle, Abreu Sign Several Agreements With PRC

*PY0312193193 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle and PRC President Jiang Zemin today attended the ceremony in which five agreements on bilateral cooperation between the two countries were signed. The agreements are in the fields of economy, technology, agriculture, livestock, and fishing. One of the agreements on agriculture, cattle raising, and fishing, which was signed by Uruguayan Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu and his counterpart, Qian Qichen, establishes various degrees of cooperation between the two countries in these fields. Other documents signed by Abreu and Qian, who is also the PRC vice prime minister, refer to promotion and protection of (mutual invasions) and to granting visas to diplomats.

The two other agreements are a protocol for economic and technological cooperation between the two governments and a technological agreement signed between the PRC Office for Import and Export of Basic Products and the Uruguayan Technology Laboratory.

On the fourth day today of his official visit to the PRC, President Lacalle left Shanghai and arrived in Beijing, where he was welcomed by Jiang with [words indistinct] in the large honor room of the People's Palace at Tiannamen Square. A Chinese Air Force battalion was reviewed by the two presidents and their military aides-de-camp.

The PRC president and his Uruguayan counterpart Lacalle held several meetings during which President Jiang asked President Lacalle to purchase more PRC products and thanked him for Uruguay's support of the PRC's reinstatement in GATT. Jiang made these comments during his meeting with Lacalle at the People's Palace in Beijing in the presence of the PRC vice prime minister and foreign minister, as well as the Uruguayan foreign and finance ministers.

President Lacalle emphasized Uruguayan support of the PRC's reinstatement in GATT and pointed out that the two countries' economies will only develop fast when international trade increases substantially. Lacalle also reported to Jiang on Uruguay's position on the Common Market of the South.

## Venezuela

### Candidate Velasquez Discusses Issues in TV Interview

*PA0412133693*

[Editorial Report] Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 1 December broadcasts live a 60-minute interview with Andres Velasquez, the Venezuelan Radical Cause Party presidential candidate, by Marcel Granier at the station's studio in Caracas as part of "Decision 93" program series.

Granier begins by asking Velasquez what are the first measures he would take if he were elected on 5 December. Velasquez responds that usually an appraisal is made of the elected presidents' first 100 days in power; "I would ask that an evaluation be made of my administration after the first 30 days, I say this publicly without hesitation."

Granier then asks what measures would be taken. Velasquez replies: "There must be a speedy response from the government in the struggle against corruption. We must resolve the bottlenecks in the economy, public spending, and attend to the problems regarding nutrition, sanitation, education, and health."

Asked what he would do with the value-added tax, VAT, Velasquez says: "We are going to restructure the VAT. We

are going to modify its application so that the workers with lower purchasing power are exempted from paying." Velasquez then notes that the area where the tax was to be applied still has to be defined but it would be applied mostly on luxury items. Granier counters that if that becomes the case then the VAT would not produce any revenues. Velasquez responds: "If we can rid public administration of the currently reigning corruption, we will have funds. I do not believe that complementary taxes such as the VAT are going to solve our fiscal deficit problem. I believe that income tax should be the backbone of our resources." Granier points out that income tax does not even represent 20 percent of revenues. Velasquez says that tax evasion must be combated and that there were many business that owe millions to the treasury.

Granier asks how Velasquez intends to implement all the reforms he has proposed. Velasquez replies: "We have a heterogeneous, multi-disciplinary team that is participating with us in this. This group has involved all the sectors in drawing up the political platform we have been presenting to the nation." Velasquez adds that this is not a run-of-the-mill government program, this is a political project. He states that given the political crisis Venezuela is experiencing, this has to be solved through a political project and not through an electoral program such as that of Rafael Caldera.

Granier mentions that some people fear the Radical Cause Party due to its Marxist origin. Velasquez responds: "As far as I know it does not have a Marxist origin." Granier responds: "Its founder was Alfredo Maneiro who was a guerrilla commander, member of the Communist Party." Velasquez continues: "This party has never been defined as leftist, nor Marxist, nor anything of the sort. We have been presenting a very original democratic program." Velasquez adds that Maneiro was never a communist. Granier then asks: "What is your ideology?" To this Velasquez responds: "My ideology is radical democracy."

Further into the interview, Granier asks Velasquez about the source of his campaign financing. The candidate explains that great efforts have been made to obtain contributions from businessmen and that raffles, dinners, and other activities were also held.

How will you manage the country's relations with Colombia, Granier asks. Velasquez responds: "Firmly but in a friendly manner." First, he adds, it must be established that "the Gulf of Venezuela belongs to Venezuela and the same applies with regard to Guyana and our claim over Esequibo. I do hope that the problem can be settled between the two countries peacefully and without the need for intervention by third parties."

To close the interview, Granier asks: "This morning, you met with the U.S. ambassador and with Mr. Watson, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, what did you talk about? In the Social Christian Party there is much concern over your contacts with the U.S. Embassy."

Velasquez says: "They will probably raise the roof asking how is it possible that the U.S. representatives went to our campaign headquarters to meet with us. But I want to say that the meeting was very interesting because of the significance of Mr. Watson's presence in a meeting with us. He reaffirmed to the Venezuelan people and to Latin Americans what is public knowledge: the U.S. Government policy of supporting democracies in the world. In this case, it was said that the United States will not back any coups and will continue to support democratic traditions, respect our people's sovereign right to maintain its democratic tradition and choose whoever we want. The United States will recognize the candidate who is chosen on Sunday, 5 December."

Velasquez continues: "We also discussed another important topic: the free trade treaties. I asked them for more information on NAFTA. We need to know more about it as it is a topic of greater discussion. In view of the certainty I have that I will win on Sunday, I also asked Mr. Watson for a meeting with President Clinton. We proposed Puerto Rico for the meeting. We do not want to waste any time, we want to be in quick contact with the rest of the international community to accelerate the economic integration processes. We also said that we want to reinforce the Group of Three meetings which, together with Colombia, and Mexico, will allow us to better understand NAFTA."

### Election Expectations Adversely Affect Bank Liquidity

*PA0312170393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0805 GMT 2 Dec 93*

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Caracas, 2 Dec (EFE)—The massive purchase of dollars before "whatever happens" in the 5 December presidential elections and the withdrawal of funds for Christmas spending have created liquidity problems for the largest Venezuelan banks, several banking sector sources have said.

The National Superintendency of Banks (SNB) stated Monday that financial entities facing liquidity problems have been forced to offer savers high interest rates of up to 70 percent in order to receive the largest possible amount of resources, especially those derived from Christmas bonuses. "The decapitalization situation, due to the strong demand of cash by the public as well as the compulsive purchase of foreign currency, have affected the country's six largest banks, which have been forced to establish a gentlemen's agreement to help each other with loans," a spokesman for the SNB indicated.

Representatives of the financial sector have confirmed this trend and explained that "both the electoral expectations and the December season have unleashed what could be defined as "traumatic flight of capital." This trend, which according to analysts "could worsen after the elections," could force the Central Bank of Venezuela (BCV) to repurchase treasury bills or zero-coupon bonds [bonos cupon cero] from the banks in order to increase its level of liquidity. The BCV (issuing bank of the country) recognized on Monday that the demand for foreign currency

had increased due to the proximity of the presidential elections, but it said that the increase had slightly affected the level of foreign currency reserves, estimated at $12.399 billion.

Finance Minister Carlos Silva also confirmed these events, but said this is a temporary situation that will be overcome shortly when the public's money returns to the financial system and the election results are known.

Economic sectors, however, disagree with the minister on this last issue because bankers and businessmen have sided with Oswaldo Alvarez Paz, Social Christian Party [Copei] candidate, who represents the continuity of the neoliberal adjustment plan, however with greater emphasis on social aspects.

The surveys give former President Rafael Caldera, 77, the greater chance of winning the elections, followed by Andres Velasquez, Radical Cause Party candidate, the aforementioned Alvarez Paz, and social democrat Claudio Fermin, the latest three separated by slight differences which make them switch places, according to the polling firm.

Financial sector representatives have said the sector is "frightened"" that Velasquez, an electrician who hopes to emulate Poland's Lech Walesa, may win the elections. They insisted that if Velasquez wins, it would be like "jumping from a plane without a parachute."

The fear also affects Caldera, founder of the Christian Democratic Copei, from which he was expelled in June for leading a coalition of 17 parties, including several socialist parties and even the remainder of the Communist Party. Caldera, who governed the country between 1969 and 1974, enjoyed the confidence of the dominant groups until he opposed the neoliberalism applied since 1989 by President Carlos Andres Perez at the recommendation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which expanded and broadened the levels of poverty to unknown limits in the country.

Political observers stated that a hypothetical victory by Velasquez, and to a lesser degree a victory by Caldera, may initially provoke a large flight of capital and the paralysis of investments. The same analysts added that this situation would normalize if the policy of the new president does not involve an absolute change of direction, although it may incorporate new actions to the course followed thus far.

### Interior Minister on Coup Rumors

*PA0312190093 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 2 Dec 93*

[Interview with Interior Minister Carlos Delgado by Eladio Lares, Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network president, at the network studios in Caracas; from "The Observer" newscast—live]

[Text] [Lares] Good evening. Our guest today is Interior Minister Carlos Delgado. Good evening, Mr. Minister.

[Delgado] Good evening.

[Lares] Supposedly, interior ministers are the best informed people in any country. I say this because of the latest rumors. Something serious is happening in Venezuela. We have grown to disregard the significance of a coup. Everybody here speaks of coups. You hear this on television, on the radio. Everybody speaks about coups. What can you tell us about this?

[Delgado] I once described the people who talk about rumors as crazy, as maniacs. Those people believe that coups are simple things, that their interests will be served and that the country will remain calm. They do not realize the tragedy that disruptions of the law bring to a state. Some thoughtless people are flattering some military members and spreading all sorts of rumors to quench their own militaristic frame of mind, to try to create confusion and to produce fear among the population. They have failed. I no longer know what purpose they have, unless they just have that quirk. I can tell you, though, that the national government has the situation under full control. Some of those spreading rumors are pitiful. Some of them are my friends.

[Lares] U.S. Under Secretary of State Watson is here. He has a special mission: to warn us that the United States is prepared to defend democracy.

[Delgado] We need no warning and no foreign country to tell us that.

[Lares] We Venezuelans want our democracy.

[Delgado] I think these are just headlines. The majority of Venezuelans live in Venezuela. No doubt. I think this is just part of the rumors. An effort is being made to give the appearance that there is instability. Venezuela, the majority of the Venezuelans back, undoubtedly, the institutional process in the country, the election process, and they will abide by the results.

We are almost over a very difficult situation that emerged as a result of events we all know. As interior minister of this government, I am satisfied that we have fulfilled our main goal: We have led the country to elections in a peaceful atmosphere. Rumors, which are lies, have not altered the Venezuelans' will to decide their future through the peaceful road of elections. This is why I feel that we have fully fulfilled the task we were assigned.

It is now up to the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE], which will have our backing, to bring the process to a conclusion.

[Lares] Minister, do you think there will be enough intelligence and patience on the part of the leading groups—the political parties—to control their people on 5 December, avoid self-proclaimed claims of victory, keep the people from taking to the streets, and so on?

[Delgado] This is an essential obligation of those who serve as political leaders. I think they have the obligation to themselves and to the country to follow the rules of democracy. No one can proclaim himself winner unless he has been proclaimed by the CSE in exercising its legal authority. The national government, and this includes the

Armed Forces, will unhesitatingly back whatever candidate is proclaimed winner by the CSE; no one else. No one can proclaim himself winner. If someone does not agree with the CSE results, he has legal means to challenge them. The conditions are there and those participating in the process are working to make this a totally clear process.

[Lares] At this very important and historic moment for the country, does the government really control the situation in the country? Not only the Bracamonte weapons are on the streets. As a result of the frustrated coups some weapons were lost. Where are those weapons? Why have these weapons not been recovered?

[Delgado] If we had located them we would have recovered them already, Eladio, you can be sure of that. The problem is.... [pauses]

[Lares] A Radical Cause candidate to the Senate was brought from Zulia to Caracas, right?

[Delgado] That is a problem of another nature.

[Lares] It was not because of the weapons?

[Delgado] This has taken place within the framework of that legal process. I think, though, that that problem has been resolved.

Regarding the weapons problem, there are clandestine weapons everywhere in the world. The police are always looking for those kinds of weapons and the media reports on this frequently, but I can tell you this, which is what really matters: The national government has enough power to definitely crush, at any given moment, anyone trying to use weapons against the institutionality of the democratic state. Everyone can be sure of this. We have the human and material resources to absolutely impose public order.

The possibility of some freak firing a shot always exists but the situation is under complete control. To answer your question specifically, the national government fully controls the situation and we are sure that this country will have an exemplary elections process as a result of which the person elected by the majority of the people will win the presidency and the will of the people will be respected. Election day will prove me right.

[Lares] What did you mean when you said that whoever sets off a firecracker will be shot?

[Delgado] [Laughs] I said that to respond to an impertinent question about what would happen if a person sets off a firecracker on election day. At the sound of a firecracker a soldier on duty might believe he is being attacked and may fire at the person who set it off. I think this is obvious. [laughs]

[Lares] Mr. Minister, what do you recommend the country do on 5 December?

[Delgado] I recommend that they vote, that they vote early and go home to await the results without problem. They can be sure that their will, legitimately expressed through their votes, will be respected.

The CSE will assume a primary role that day and the national government, the Executive Branch, will back the decisions adopted by the CSE.

[Lares] Will the dry law be in effect?

[Delgado] The dry law should be in effect from Saturday until Monday. The dry law will be implemented throughout the country to avoid interruptions resulting from drunkenness and so forth, especially in some areas.

Permits to carry arms will be suspended also from Saturday until Monday throughout the country. It is possible that permits to carry arms may be definitively suspended, but this is another matter that will be the subject of another meeting. Summarizing: Everything is prepared to have a peaceful elections day.

[Lares] Thank you, Interior Minister Carlos Delgado for your visit to "The Observer" this evening.

## Defense Minister on Coup Plot, U.S. Position

*PA0312200993 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 Dec 93*

[Interview with Defense Minister Radames Munoz Leon by Eladio Lares, the president of Radio Caracas Television, at the studio in Caracas; from "The Observer" newscast—live]

[Excerpt] [Lares] Good evening. Thank you, very much. Our guest today is Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon, the minister of defense. Good evening, Minister.

[Munoz] Good evening. Good evening to all viewers. Thank you very much for the opportunity to be here.

[Lares] Minister, there are no more rumors; there are specific worrying incidents. DIM [Directorate of Military Intelligence] arrested a candidate to a position in the State of Zulia and brought him to Caracas. He is allegedly involved in the theft of weapons. Today, a national newspaper published a very worrying and alarming report. A major general with a clean record—whom I think was director of the Defense Ministry—is being sought for alleged involvement in a coup d'etat aborted last night or today. What is happening, Minister?

[Munoz] First, I want to make it clear that the word worrying must not be used under these conditions. On the contrary, the Armed Forces and the DIM are carrying out a cleansing job within the system to bring tranquility to the Venezuelan people so they can vote on 5 December without pressure or fear. We have been strictly carrying out our duty. We have initiated a series of searches and actions aimed at guaranteeing peace.

Obviously there will be comments when the Armed Forces take action in this regard, but our primary duty is precisely to exercise authority and avoid any kind of crime associated to rebellion....

[Lares, interrupting] At this point, the report published is that a coup d'etat was aborted.

[Munoz] Yes, that is the news but the population must not echo this kind of report. The DIM has requested Gen. Santiago Ramirez' presence....

[Lares, interrupting] Is he out of the country?

[Munoz] Apparently he is out of the country. Today we received a report he was in Aruba. This report has not been corroborated and it is not a first-hand report. The point is that Gen. Ramirez' presence is required to answer some questions about a rebellion, in which he was accused of allegedly participating.

[Lares] Who else is involved with Gen. Ramirez in this rebellion?

[Munoz] There is a strange movement connected slightly to the 200 Revolutionary Bolivarian Movement. Some contacts have been made, although this apparently does not come from the 200 Revolutionary Bolivarian Movement itself, but from some intermediate group. We are conducting an in-depth investigation into this matter. Some people have been arrested. Of those arrested, there are some active duty officers who were previously involved in the 27 November or 4 February coup attempts.

We are t[illegible] guaranteeing the country that we are doing exactly what we should have done long ago: to seek and persecute those who try to damage the Venezuelan democratic system.

[Lares] While these things happen, Minister, some foreign guests have begun arriving in the country. Mr. Watson, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, came to remind us that the United States would not accept a regime other than a democratic regime. There is also a letter from President Clinton in this regard. The arrival of a U.S. security adviser was announced, and some candidates and political groups have invited international observers to see the development of elections. This leads me to believe that we now appear a lot like Central American countries that need people to come from abroad to oversee that there is no fraud in the elections?

[Munoz] First, let us think positive. The assistant secretary of state told me....

[Lares, interrupting] Did you meet with him?

[Munoz] I met with him this morning at the ambassador's residence. He told me that the Venezuelan system is one of the best in the world. He also said that it is necessary to create techniques to perfect this system. I agree with him. I believe ours is one of the best electoral systems there is, but—as I said before—we must improve it technology-wise.

Now we cannot expect a position from the United States other than the defense of the democratic system. We also support the democratic system. Our Constitution says we must defend and promote the democratic system as one of its basic objectives. The fact that they establish their rules of the game and regulations does not necessarily have to be interpreted as a threat. They have simply said we must strengthen democracy, and that we must respect the democratic system. The Armed Forces and this country agree with this kind of belief. This is the democratic belief of the Venezuelan people and the Armed Forces are part of the Venezuelan people. [passage omitted]

## General: Election Security Plan Totally 'Successful'

*PA0312185393 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1605 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Interview with General Fernan Barroso Fuenmayor, commander of Republic Plan No. 7, by reporter Jose Marcano at the Supreme Electoral Council in Caracas; from "The News" newscast—live]

[Text] [Marcano] Good day. We are broadcasting live and direct from the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] headquarters, as part of our Elections 93 coverage. With me now is General Fernan Barroso Fuenmayor, commander of Republic Plan No. 7. Good day. How are you? Let us talk a little about how the Republic Plan is working out on a key day like today, when the plan goes into effect at the 23,000 voting tables established throughout the country.

[Barroso] Good day. First of all I would like to say that execution of the Republic Plan has been 100 percent successful. We have completed the pre-electoral phase and today—now that the electoral campaign is over—we initiated the electoral phase. It is also important to point out today—and school principals should take note of this—that all of the voting centers will be occupied by the Armed Forces to normalize the 5 December electoral event.

Another bit of important information is that the Armed Forces have completed the distribution of electoral material. Material has been distributed throughout the country, and in the Federal District and Miranda State some of the material was distributed yesterday. We finished distributing electoral material to the entire Republic of Venezuela this morning.

[Marcano] How many troops are participating in this Republic Plan?

[Barroso] We have 90,000 men on the streets to control security and we will have almost 300 cadets here at the CSE to receive electoral certificate No. 1, the yellow envelope containing the presidential vote count.

[Marcano] It is customary to have soldiers at the voting centers. Will there be more soldiers than usual this time?

[Barroso] That is right. We have attempted to bolster the presence of men in uniform at all the voting centers and electoral tables and in areas which, due to their purpose or mission, are guarded by the Armed Forces. Examples of these are power plants, television and radio stations, and so forth.

[Marcano] Do you have any recommendations for the public concerning their arrival at the voting centers? For example, that they should not carry weapons? What rules do you have?

[Barroso] First of all, the people should have a great deal of faith and confidence in the Armed Forces because we will guarantee the people's conduct. I am sure, I am certain that the people will behave the way they always have. The Venezuelan people have always risen above any difficulties. They must go out and vote without weapons because the use of weapons is prohibited; they must not drink alcoholic beverages and wind up with problems at an electoral table; and they must vote early to facilitate the CSE's work and that of the Venezuelan Armed Forces.

[Marcano] I thank Republic Plan Commander Fernan Barroso Fuenmayor. I will continue reporting live and direct from the CSE.

### Military Officers Arrested

*PA0312225093 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2152 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Caracas, 3 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Defense Minister Radames Munoz Leon has confirmed that Venezuelan military intelligence personnel have arrested retired General Carlos Santiago Rodriguez today. Santiago Rodriguez is charged with plotting terrorist actions to thwart Sunday's elections.

The top military chief said there are "between four and six officers under arrest" who will be questioned to find out the details of the foiled plot. The minister told reporters: "We cannot talk of a coup d'etat. We are investigating." He added that several active officers could be planning a revolt.

Defense Ministry sources indicated that the plan was to prompt sabotage actions to motivate the Army's intervention in the general elections scheduled for Sunday. Private Radio Caracas Radio reported that Santiago Rodriguez returned to Caracas from Aruba and went to the Military Intelligence Directorate offices, where he was arrested.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 2147 GMT on 3 December carries a related 150-word report that says, according to Munoz: "alleged coupist Gen. Santiago Ramirez surrendered to Venezuelan military authorities to render statements and answer questions."]

"I do not have to clarify anything to anyone because I do not want to participate in games being played by scurrilous people," the officer told reporters. Intelligence officials had seized compromising weapons, maps, and documents during raids in several places in the country, a military source stated.

Today, some 90,000 soldiers started to be assigned to strategic locations and streets, as well as near television and radio stations, throughout the country to ensure order during Sunday's elections. Some 10 million Venezuelans will go to the polls Sunday to elect the president of the Republic and renew half of the deputies in Congress amid a tense climate caused by rumors of a possible new military coup.

### Military Intelligence Question General

*PA0412020993 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[From the "The News" newscast]

[Text] General Carlos Santiago Ramirez, former general regional director of the Defense Ministry, is being held at the Directorate of Military Intelligence [DIM] where he is giving statements in connection with an investigation.

The Venezuelan people are getting ready to make a historic decision on which the future Venezuelan democracy depends. Up until now, the record for the past four years reads as follows: One disturbance [sacudon—the Caracas riots], two coup attempts, and an atmosphere permeated with so much tension that there has been talk about disbanding groups [focos] that, in some way, have made attempts against the country's political system.

In this sense, Defense Minister Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon has acknowledged the great obligations of his current post, and, for this reason, he has met with some of the presidential candidates to exchange opinions on the atmosphere required for the elections because of the closeness of the race. Munoz met with Senator [and National Convergence presidential candidate] Rafael Caldera, Democratic Action Party presidential candidate Claudio Fermin, and [Social Christian Party presidential candidate] Oswaldo Alvarez Paz, and he likely will meet with Radical Cause Party presidential candidate Andres Velasquez.

Meanwhile, the defense minister has also clarified the case involving Army Division General Carlos Santiago Ramirez.

[Begin recording] [Munoz] I do not think this situation will have any special implication. It must not be viewed this way. I believe, in the end, when the situation is all cleared up, we will have a better definition of what we are investigating. I have just received news that Gen. Santiago voluntarily appeared at DIM headquarters to render statements. I believe he is not being held...

[Unidentified reporter, interrupting] Has he already been released?

[Munoz] He is at DIM headquarters and an interrogation process is under way, which will take some time. Later, he will be set free. [end recording]

### Court Rules No Link in 4 Feb, 27 Nov Coup Attempts

*PA0512005493 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Report by Melisa Soto; from "The News" newscast]

[Text] Based on Deputy Magistrate Luis Manuel Paris Raucevo's report, the Supreme Court's criminal appeals division has ruled that there is no connection between the 4 February and 27 November coup attempts; thus, the

Permanent Court Martial continues to be the court assigned to this case [not further specified].

The Supreme Court's ruling responds to a conflict of jurisdiction appeal presented by the Caracas Permanent Court Martial to the Court Martial of the Republic. The former estimated that there were ties between the 4 February and 27 November 1992 events and that both trials should be unified. The court also ruled that the original 4 February case files must be sent to the Permanent Court Martial and that the 27 November files must be sent to the Court Martial so that each court can continue to be informed on the two cases independently; this means that Vice Admiral Hernan Gruber Odreman might have to testify and answer questions at the Second Military Court next week.

On another topic, it was reported on 3 December that former President Carlos Andres Perez will have to appear before the Supreme Court's substantiation division on 15 December.

### Velasquez on Elections, Watson Visit, Escobar

*PA0412033993 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Report by Cecilia Pachano; from "The News" newscast]

[Text] President Ramon J. Velasquez met with the reporters who cover the presidential palace for more than an hour. The president gave his views on recent events and commented on the scenario that is awaiting the next government. President Velasquez admitted that intelligence services uncovered a conspiracy to disrupt the period before the elections but explained that there was never any talk of a military or garrison uprising. Commenting on the visit by Alexander Watson, assistant secretary of state for Inter-American affairs, he reiterated that he was grateful for the Clinton administration's concern for the country, although it will be Venezuelans who will make the sovereign decision on the nation's future.

On the murder of Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar Gaviria, he said that his death ends a stormy period in that country's history and that Colombia has shown its potential and defeated attempts at destabilization.

Talking about the elections and Venezuela's future, he reaffirmed his confidence that the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] will execute the mandate entrusted to it by the law and added that a new political picture will emerge from this process.

[Begin Velasquez recording] The scope of the problems force or should force the political parties—as well as the country, to which you refer as the national or real country, in sum, the rest of the country—to gain an awareness. That national agreement is a national need. Why? Until recently it was possible to smooth out the wrinkles, as someone said, or to hide debts. That is no longer possible; that is no longer possible [repeats himself], and the situation that exists will not disappear on 5 December but will become even more serious. [end recording]

Pondering on his six months in office, he admitted that all of the hours of his term have been difficult, and no matter how many advisers one may have the most difficult thing is to make a decision alone. The president said that although this is the most serious institutional crisis the country has experienced, he still believes in democracy and this system. He also acknowledged that the news media have placed a balancing role in the democratic competition and said 5 December will be an unending day.

### More on Velasquez Interview

*PA0412052693 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[Interview with President Ramon Jose Velasquez by Eladio Larez, president of Radio Caracas Television, at the Miraflores Presidential Palace in Caracas—live]

[Text] [Larez] Good evening. Good evening, Mr. President.

[Velasquez] Good evening, Mr. Larez. How are you?

[Larez] Very well, Mr. President. We are here at the Ambassador's Hall, next to the Miraflores Chapel, and President Velasquez has cordially agreed to talk with us tonight.

Mr. President, we are only a few hours away from 5 December, which is one of the goals you set for yourself when you assumed the leadership of the Republic. There is no doubt that you have attained relative social peace in the stormy Venezuela you had to govern. I believe that this social peace you achieved is largely due to the image and confidence you have generated in public opinion. Nevertheless, Mr. President, lately we have seen more startling things. The media are talking about an alleged coup presumably headed by a retired and well-known Army general, General Santiago Ramirez. What can you tell us about this, Mr. President, and tell the whole country?

[Velasquez] Of course, it is my duty to discus. this, and it is necessary. Without praising the national Armed Forces, but simply reflecting the reality of a process that stems from 1958, the national Armed Forces have been integrated—since the moment of the pact between political parties, the business community, labor sectors, the national Armed Forces, the media, and the Catholic Church—into this process of modernizing the country in order to strengthen the democratic system. If it were not for this process, these startling events would not be an electoral experience, but a way of life.

In the sixties, which were unforgettable in terms of the nation's social, political, and cultural history, the Armed Forces confronted successive military revolts and the appearance of one of the most important guerrilla movements in all of the Americas. The Armed Forces reaffirmed their firm democratic spirit. The same has occurred during this tumultuous decade of the nineties on two occasions. The majority of Armed Forces personnel have allowed us to overcome the crises that cropped up. During the institutional crisis of June of this year—an unprecedented crisis, and the deepest one in the history of Venezuela—the

Armed Forces maintained an attitude which I have called and still consider pedagogical, and they did this while the democratic institutions remained active. Based on military intelligence reports, this was not a conspiracy.

[Larez] It was not?

[Velasquez] No divisions were involved. It was labeled an attempt in which some retired elements and civilians were involved. In no way, however, was it an attempt to disavow the process. It was not an attempt to disavow the elections. The presence of the Armed Forces... [pauses] Some foreign correspondents find the Republic Plan a little strange. The Republic Plan has been implemented since 1958 as a guarantee for public order during elections. The Armed Forces, during every election—1958, 1963, 1968, and so on until now—have always cooperated. First they handed out the election materials, and later... [pauses] A veritable general staff was formed, under the command of a general so that the voting could be carried out with guaranteed order, and the transportation of the ballot boxes has always been handled by military aircraft.

The defense minister, during a visit to the Senate two days ago, told reporters that he hoped that Venezuelans' civic education would be such that for the next electoral processes the Armed Forces's presence would not be needed at the election tables or at the actual casting of votes to guarantee order; instead, order would be imposed by the decision of respect of each Venezuelan.

[Larez] It is true, Mr. President, that you have had to deal with a very difficult historic moment. You have had to handle a politically traumatized country, a country without resources. I hope that after 5 December there will be a different atmosphere.

What is indeed a fact is that next year will be as difficult or more difficult than this year. What do you think, Mr. President, will be the first priority for the man to whom you will turn over the reigns of power?

[Velasquez] I believe that as a path of stability that may allow us to solve the problems, because this accumulation of problems that have been gathering will not be solved in five years, I believe that to return to a full beginning we will need this and the next presidential term to open the doors to the millennium.

[Larez] To the next century?

[Velasquez] To the next century. The country has the capacity to solve its problems. The professional preparation of the leading classes—I have said so and will now repeat it—is the best guarantee. Today, the Venezuelan professional has access to a great amount of information, education, and training that none of the previous generations had; besides, they have good experience of what living in a crisis is, because for the Venezuelans of the previous generations, and all of them until a short time ago, petroleum used to solve all of the problems.

With a scarce population—15 or 16 million inhabitants, meaning, less than the population of Mexico City—with an income from petroleum that grew and grew, and without a foreign debt, everything was solved. Sometimes we had to use those resources to subsidize producers, consumers, and everything. That Venezuela is over, due to the weight of the foreign debt. This has caused a number of problems, within family life and the lives of all people, as well as in the state itself. This has taught us to live within a hard, real world, and this is what allows the new generations to use their genius, to apply their thesis on a reality, and to propel the country ahead; we will get ahead.

[Larez] Mr. President, do you feel that after 5 December there will be something like a tacit rest for all Venezuelans, who are submerged in so much anguish, rumors, anxiety, and waiting for things to happen? Do you think we will rest?

[Velasquez] That is what I wish. It is what I think. That is why I give so much importance to the voting. I have said that it is not just the beginning of the eighth Constitutional Period, which is very important by itself, but it is also the moment to eliminate a number of rifts, frictions, the moment to heal wounds, to seek, through the formulas of power that may emerge from the voting, a path to understanding.

I have repeated until exhaustion that due to the problem's size and the country's needs, the government that emerges must invite the actual country, the country that works, the country that is not registered in political or electoral organizations, to a meeting, to a national agreement that must not be based on electoral promises because the country's fiscal situation, the immediate needs, do not allow any lies.

Our reality has to be studied; there are solutions. If you summon the producers, workers, professionals, and military sectors to redraft the country with the objective of overcoming conflicts, there is a way. It requires, however, national and parliamentary support.

[Larez] Mr. President, you are a historian and as a good historian you are a man with a remarkable memory. After all of this is over and you hand over the Presidency, I am sure—I dare assert this—that you will decide to write the history of this period. This period includes very important chapters and they include ones on the government that you have had to lead. How do you think Velasquez the historian will view the government administration of Velasquez the president? [chuckles]

[Velasquez] It could be viewed.... [pauses] No one can say this is self-praise; not at all, because more than depicting Ramon Velasquez' contribution, it manifests the contribution of Venezuelan society, the strength of the democratic system, and the level of Venezuelans' confidence. We have surmounted in peace an institutional crisis that we had not experienced in the country since 1830. This has been a period during which everyone has had an input—the Attorney General, the court, the Senate, public opinion, and the Armed Forces—a period in which the head of state, who was negatively affected by the measures ordered, respectfully accepted the court's orders.

We have confronted two very serious military uprisings amid a social, economic, financial, fiscal crisis of great magnitude. This crisis has negatively affected businessmen, workers, and bankers alike and has prompted devaluation, inflation, social restlessness, and protests in Venezuela. Contrary to other Latin American countries, Venezuela had never suffered such a serious crisis. For example, the devaluation. We do not know if what I was paid in the first fortnight would cover my expenses until the second pay period. This situation was entirely new for Venezuelans. As is natural, many people blamed the democratic system for the situation; thus, it is indeed an achievement for all sectors of our society to have sought democratic, peaceful, electoral solutions and it is an honor to have led the country during a period in which is shown such maturity and critical conscience. A great deal of merit for our maturity during this period must be given to the media, as it cautioned and alerted the leaders while society waited for solutions. This has been extraordinary.

[Larez] By the way, don't you think that despite all of the concerns, coup attempts, former presidents brought to trial, a new Venezuela has arisen, a new Venezuela where leaders know that they will have to render accounts and that Venezuelans have the right to demand that accounts be rendered? What do you think? Do you think this attitude will take root or will we fall back to complicity, indulgence, and indifference?

[Velasquez] No. The state's wealth, which made it extravagant and squanderous, ended for good; likewise, corruption, nepotism, and regionalism are ghosts of the past as a form of government.

All of this has been wiped out because, each time, there has been a Venezuelan society that is more conscious of its rights. Today, each and every Venezuelan is leery of the bits of news and gossip, which many times prove to be slander. There is a vigilance within society. This is new in Venezuela, this is totally...

[Larez, interrupting] And the media, is it as you said before?

[Velasquez] Yes, the media issue warnings. No longer is it the elite who decide. News, comments, and criticism reach millions immediately through radio and television broadcasts. This has altered the political scene; in terms of history, it has changed the scene. In the same way, the omnipotent state, which wanted to control everything because in the Treasury there was always more money than needed, has ceased to exist. For example, now a citizen who has to pay taxes—who has to pay new taxes—is going to watch over how his money is spent.

[Larez] He is going to watch where his money goes.

[Velasquez] Exactly: where his money goes. True, there are very serious social problems, and therefore a different social policy will have to be applied. Nevertheless, I am optimistic because we are on the threshold of a new era. There is development in the private sector in every area, and development in the regions in the 22 states. The institutional centers are now located in Barquisimeto, Maturin, San Cristobal, and Maracaibo. We are now also conscious of how to manage our natural resources.

[Larez] To conclude, we want to thank you for allowing us to be here in Miraflores Palace. Would you care to make use of these last couple of minutes to address the nation on the eve before the elections?

[Velasquez] Here is my message to the Venezuelans, to all who live with us, and to all those who have come from far away places to settle here: This is an invitation to participate in the most positive manner in the 5 December elections. Besides being elections for public office for the eighth constitutional period, these elections represent a historic moment. It is a time when the nation's political scene is changing, when new personalities will be elected to parliament, when a new head of state will summon the nation, when wounds will be healed, and when debates will take place. This is a time when all those values of faith and hope—values maintained by the Venezuelan people—will find a means for expression. The results of the elections open a new historic era for the nation. Therefore, all Venezuelans should be present and watchful. Those who have a right to vote should exercise this right. Not to vote is absurd. The nation will be watching to ensure that the results are respected.

[Larez] Thank you very much, Mr. President. Thank you for allowing us into Miraflores Palace tonight.

## CSE National Message on 5 Dec General Elections

*PA0412013893 Caracas Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[Message of the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) on the 5 December general elections read by CSE President Isidro Morales Paul, who is accompanied by Army Brigadier General German Barroso Fuenmayor, commander of the Republic Plan; CSE First Vice President Anibal J. Latuff; CSE Second Vice President Rafael Lander; independent CSE members Antonio Jose Urbina and Isaias Barnola; Miguel Espigel Gonzalez, member of the CSE for the Democratic Action Party; Engineer Alfredo Weil Reina, member of the CSE for the Social Christian Party; Rafael Thielen, member of the CSE for the Movement Toward Socialism; Engineer Igor Gessen, member of the CSE for the New Democratic Generation party; Jose Lira, member of the CSE for the Radical Cause Party; CSE Secretary General Sobeglia Mejias; and minority bloc party representatives Engineer Godofredo Marin, Professor Humberto Anzola, and Valdemar Ramirez, all of whom are identified by captions; place not given—live]

[Text] Venezuelan people: The election materials are now being taken to the voting centers to be distributed to the voting tables [mesa de votacion]. All of us working within the election process must now dedicate ourselves mainly to the task of forming the voting table boards.

The boards must be formed, and, then, they must review the election materials, appoint their presidents and secretaries, read the instructions, and be ready to arrive at the places assigned to them on 5 December at 0530 to begin the voting process.

We want to insist on what we have been saying over the past few months: All of Venezuela will have its eyes fixed on the patriotic task these people must carry out. The members of the voting table boards must organize and direct the voting process with the utmost propriety, tend to the voters, and make it easy for them to cast their votes. Once the voting ends, they will count the votes.

We hereby ratify the instructions that the Supreme Electoral Council has given to the members of the voting table boards in the sense that they must first count the votes for president of the Republic, which are to be placed aside and whose numbers must be registered in the vote counting record [acta de escrutinio] for president of the Republic. These original documents must be deposited in the envelopes marked No. 1, which are yellow, and delivered to officials of the Seventh Republic Plan.

We reaffirm what the law mandates: The members of the voting table boards have an obligation to sign the vote counting records.

Once the counting of votes for president of the Republic is completed and the records are delivered to officials of the Armed Forces in the No. 1 yellow envelopes, voting table board members shall then proceed to count votes for legislative candidates.

Honesty, patriotism, ability, and decency must comprise the primary attributes of the performance of the members of the voting table boards. Venezuela's democratic victory on 5 December depends on these characteristics. Good evening.

## Defense Minister Urges Public To Vote En Masse

*PA0512012693 Caracas Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 2330 GMT 4 Dec 93*

[Speech by Defense Minister Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon on the eve of the 5 December presidential elections in Caracas—live]

[Text] Venezuelan countrymen: With a few hours left to go before the general elections summoned by the nation for 5 December, this is a great and unique opportunity for the members of the top military command to express to all of you our total solidarity with the election through universal, direct, and secret balloting of the top government authorities and members of the national and regional deliberating corps that will rule the country's fate during the next five years.

The moment the nation has reached is encouraging and propitious after the difficulties and incidents that occurred not very long ago. It is encouraging because large segments of society have taken the initiative and are participating decisively in seeking, through the manifestation of the people's will, solutions to improving the system of government and advancing in the midst of as of yet unconquered difficulties to a period of happiness and collective fulfillment.

The National Armed Forces [FAN] are part of this hope. We believe in the country and its moral and human reserves. We present representative democracy and its logical mechanisms of self-regulation through the ballot as the only responsibility of the path toward progress. FAN began the Republic Plan, which is already well-known to all Venezuelans. The plan's efficiency has been proved throughout these years of democracy, as we have overcome even more demanding circumstances. We reaffirm before the Venezuelan people our support for the current process so that citizens can live in order, peace, progress, and hope.

We believe in our capability and work programs, and we will be providing the most careful protection on each of the Republic's voting places. We will conduct surveillance, which may be required so that each voter may come without pressure or anxiety to keep his election day appointment. We will guarantee absolute honesty in transferring electoral materials to the voting places and to the places cited by the country's electoral authorities.

All Venezuelans can trust in their FAN. We believe in democracy as a system to govern mankind's fate. We have given the most absolute proofs of that belief, and despite the multiple threats that have loomed over the system's stability, we are maintaining the conceptual purity of the principles and values that govern us, as the military institution of Venezuela. We are ready to defend the nation from the threats and perils that may harm its sovereignty, integrity, and institutional majesty.

The electoral process will take place a few hours from now. Through the multiple information mechanisms, Venezuela has the good intentions of the majority vote that will be shown. We are acting under that line of conduct. Regardless of what the outcome may be, FAN, its whole structure, with the full force of its ideas, will enforce respect for the will of the majority in their exemplary demonstration of civic duty. That is why we are inviting all Venezuelans from any trend or ideological view to go en masse and with confidence to cast their votes for the candidates of their choice. No matter what their decisions or trends may be, they must express it, because the country's future demands that the largest number of Venezuelans express their will and establish a line of action with which to guide the process the country needs.

Here before you are all of the generals and admirals of the top military command. We have done it this way so that confidence can take the place of uncertainty and so that everybody can understand that making the great fatherland we all want is not merely a matter of talking; it is a major task in which we must all do our job and fulfill our responsibilities, sharing the honorable duty of making the fatherland prosperous and sovereign.

On 5 December, vote with confidence and en masse. FAN will support this unique civic action. We are the guarantors

of the security in the voting places, careful protectors of the electoral materials, and we are prepared to assure you that the victorious decision will be respected. I say so in the name of the honor and responsibility of the men in uniform who feel that Venezuela belongs as much to us as it belongs to each one of you. As a final message, I deem it timely to say that the future of Venezuelan democracy depends on all of us. That each one should fulfill his duty is this moment's urgent motto. Venezuela can rest at ease. Their FAN is with them. Good evening.

### Electoral Council President Addresses Nation

*PA0512124493 Caracas Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 1202 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[Address to the nation by Isidro Morales Paul, president of the Supreme Electoral Council, CSE, from the CSE office in Caracas—live]

[Text] Good morning, Venezuelan people. Today is the most important day in many decades. The Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] appeals to those who have the great responsibility of participating in one of the most crucial phases of the electoral process which begins when voting polls are installed. The CSE hopes this action will begin immediately, according to the procedures established by the laws on suffrage and the resolutions issued by the CSE.

The success which the country expects and deserves from the elections we are holding today will depend on a strict and responsible compliance with the aforementioned legal procedures. We must not forget the high patriotic mission of all Venezuelans, whose devotion and vocation for service will make possible the honest results that the people are expecting and which will contribute to the establishment of a democratic system whose solidity will be our pride and will serve as an example for the world.

Fellow countrymen: We fully trust your capacity for work and honesty. Venezuela will be eternally grateful for this. Thank you very much.

### Polls Open, 'Proceeding as Normal'

*PA0512135393 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[From the "Elections 93" election coverage program]

[Text] Isidro Morales Paul, president of the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE], has announced that the voting polls have opened and everything proceeds as normal. He added the polls will be closed at 1600 [2000 GMT]. Nonetheless, if there are still voters in line at some polls, these will remain open beyond this hour.

Approximately 10 million voters today will elect the authorities that will rule our nation for the next five years. When he cast his vote, the CSE president emphasized that the first official results will be announced at 2100.

### Notes Voting Table Delays

*PA0512171493 Paris AFP in Spanish 1611 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[Text] Caracas, 5 Dec (AFP)—According to Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] President Isidro Morales Paul, by noon on Sunday, approximately 800 voting tables were still having problems opening for the presidential and parliamentary elections in Venezuela.

Morales indicated that a total of 27,740 tables had been installed in more than 8,000 voting centers and that despite delays in some tables, the voting process was taking place normally with significant voters turnout.

The problems with opening the voting tables were taking place as a result of officials responsible for the tables not showing up at their respective voting centers. Nevertheless, Morales called on the population waiting in line at the centers to open the centers on their own. "If the members responsible for the voting tables have not arrived, these tables can be opened by voters waiting in line. Voters should not be kept waiting for these irresponsible officials who do not carry out their duties" Morales pointed out.

Nearly 10 million voters of the country's 20 million population are expected to vote during these elections to select a president, deputies, senators, and legislative assembly members for the 1994-95 period.

Although significant voter abstentionism had been forecasted, a very high voter turnout rate was observed at the voting centers during the early morning hours.

### Election Process Normal

*PA0512205193 Caracas Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 1950 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[Statement by Isidro Morales Paul, Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) president, from Supreme Electoral Council offices in Caracas—live]

[Text] Venezuelans: The election process took place in a completely normal fashion. The Venezuelan people got up very early today to go to their voting stations and cast their votes for their presidential candidate and congressmen.

We can point out patriotically the evident fact that voting has been massive throughout Venezuela, in urban and rural areas. This fact makes us happy as Venezuelans and reveals the civic-minded spirit of the Venezuelan people and the democratic attitude of all Venezuelans.

Let us recall that according to the law, the voting period ends at 1600—as long as there are no voters at the voting table; that is, as long as there are no people waiting to vote.

We ask the media to abstain from giving out unofficial reports on election results until the Supreme Electoral Council CSE decides when it is a suitable moment for the media to announce results produced by their own investigations and estimates. The citizens of Venezuela should be aware of the fact that the only official reports will be those issued by the CSE.

We also appeal to the presidential candidates; respect for electoral results enhances democracy and the candidates.

The organization directing this process is composed of all the political forces of Venezuela. Results other than those given out by the CSE have no official validity and cannot serve as a basis for any kind of claim.

As we said this morning, the vote-counting process must be completely clean and public. It must unequivocally mirror the people's will.

The CSE is aware of the victory that Venezuela, the people, and democracy are securing today. We know that the Venezuelans want to celebrate this victory; there will be a moment for that. That moment will be once the CSE issues public reports. Any celebration prior to this could be not only untimely but also a source of disruption against the civic-minded spirit that has prevailed and that must be acknowledged by all Venezuelans and not just by specific groups.

## President Velasquez Remarks on Voting Process

*PA0512233693 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2132 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[Interview with President Ramon J. Velasquez by unidentified reporter at Miraflores Palace in Caracas—live]

[Text] [Reporter] President Velasquez is coming out. Mr. President.

[Velasquez] The way in which the voting process, which closed one hour ago, took place shows the democratic inclination of the Venezuelan people—including all of the national segments from all ideological persuasions—and their civic maturity. Men and women took part in an activity that could be defined in one phrase: the future won.

I have always wanted these elections to end a number of differences and antagonisms. The evils will not be eradicated, but this should mark the beginning of an effort to eradicate evils. Democracy won here, especially the country's future, because the future should reaffirm all the values that you, the new generations, represent. There is an increasingly stronger critical and spontaneous awareness, without literature and rhetoric. This is a means to solve problems with the participation of all national segments.

[Reporter] Mr. President, in this electoral process the Venezuelan people's maturity was again reaffirmed.

[Velasquez] Yes.

[Reporter] How will this benefit us abroad, given that such a negative image had been created abroad about Venezuelan democracy?

[Velasquez] Today I told the correspondent of a foreign agency that one had to be blind and deaf to have a negative impression of the Venezuelan people. One would have to be blind not to have witnessed the actions of all of the country's social classes, the mobilization of the new and active generations, because this was not an activity of elderly people and (?adults). The majority of participants were the younger people.

This must be the beginning of a new era; otherwise, this effort would be frustrated. We will wait for the vote counting because the true voice of the positions of the presidential and legislative candidates will be determined by the sum of the votes. Projections are very good, but the real, definitive, and constitutional projection is given by the sum of all votes. We will have a definitive truth as soon as they are added up and the Supreme Electoral Council announces the winners and the structure of the legislative branch.

[Reporter] Mr. President, what international contacts have you had during this electoral process? Which presidents of the area, at least of Latin America, have you talked with?

[Velasquez] I first spoke with Ecuadoran President Duran Ballen, with Colombian President Gaviria, and I was about to talk with Patricio Aylwin, my great friend, the president of Chile. By the way, he will complete his term next Sunday, because a new Chilean president will be elected on 11 December. He is a president who has faced the most difficult transition from dictatorship to democracy.

[Reporter] What is the impression that those heads of state have of the process in Venezuela?

[Velasquez] There was a sort of universal incredulity that only the people could defeat. Of the 20 foreign correspondents with whom I meet, 15 referred to military coups and rebellions. Only five of them referred to the process they came to witness. A foreign reporter asked me yesterday: Why was there no coup last night? Thus, that is what they have been thinking. This was spread out all over Latin America. There was the impression that there would be a military coup and that Venezuela was living amid corruption and terrorism. This was destroyed by the will of the people, who are the only ones who can determine their fate.

[Reporter] Do you feel like the great victor of this process, for at least holding this election although you did not achieve a national accord?

[Velasquez] I am happy for two [as heard] things—the people's will. This is a people, a nation rooted in history, who are always capable of solving their crises. Solutions have almost never come from abroad. When a democracy is in progress, solutions do not come from great leaders; the leaders of democracy are the people themselves.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Velasquez] I wanted to open a door because the country will walk through it. We must solve our problems; we must reunite the people and heal our wounds and find a way to think positive. We have plenty of reasons to think in this way. All of you are maintaining a critical position, demanding honesty, fighting corruption, looking for modern formulas, and.... [pauses] You use the language of

modern times, and I cannot demand that you use the language or concepts of my time; that would be absurd. All generations must maintain a [word indistinct] attitude toward important issues. The positive aspect of Venezuelans is based on their determination.

[Reporter] Mr. President, as a historian you have been very good at describing various periods in Venezuelan history. As a historian, how would you describe the past six months and the current electoral process?

[Velasquez] It is difficult to describe it, but basically it is a transition period toward a new Venezuela. We have moved forward to open a door so that people can believe again in the values of democracy, which had lost credibility, so that people can believe again in the value of voting and in the possibility of changing situations through reforms. One of those situations is caused by the ghosts of the past, in other words, corruption and personalism. Other situations are due to the conflict derived from the country's social situation, the state's tremendous failure in trying to control everything, and the urgent social demands. We must seek an adjustment, an understanding.

I believe we are doing very well in certain aspects of our economic development. Without social development and social readjustment, however, and without seeking solutions for the urgent demands of the majorities, that development and that democracy is not balanced and, therefore, in danger. It will be a long process; it will be a process of revision, readjustments, and reorganization, but we have very capable professionals in the new generation who can execute those reforms. As I have said before—and I repeat—my confidence in the country is based on the professional capabilities of the new generation.

### Interviewed at Polling Station

*PA0512155693 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 1247 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[Interview with President Ramon J. Velasquez with unidentified reporters at Don Bosco Secondary School in Altamira, Caracas; from the "Decision 93" election coverage program—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Good morning, President Velasquez. We would like you to say something to the Venezuelans who have not yet left their homes to vote. What do you think of the voting process?

[Velasquez] As a Venezuelan citizen, as a democrat, as president of the Republic, as Armed Forces commander in chief, I am greeting the Venezuelan people because today we are opening a new stage. Every vote cast in the country's 22 states is a step toward the new government and expresses the affirmation of a democratic process, where the participation of the people will eliminate vices, corruption, and fraud. Early today, I got in touch with all the country, from Tachira to Tamacuro, from Guaira to San Fernando de Atabapo. The entire country is admirably on the move. Exercising the right to vote represents a national movement to the future. Heeding the results of the elections is respecting the future.

Venezuela has outlined the road. A difficult and conflicting stage, where many thought democracy would perish, is about to end. Democracy is present here, however. There are people of all ages and trades. What I wish to stress, however, is the presence of both the young people, those who will cast their votes for the first time, and the eagerness of the new generations. The country's destiny is in the hands of these young people. I have never doubted Venezuela's future because, despite many people's skepticism regarding the future, I have seen in the new generations, those who study and work, those who attend classes in secondary and technical schools, as well as universities, and the young professionals, a certainty of the people's soundness. For these people, democracy is a way of life. I am convinced that rancor and resentment are being buried today and that a new country will be born. I also am convinced that we will take advantage of the good to keep at it and avoid not repeating whatever was harmful or bad.

[Reporter] Mr. President, do you think we have reached the small, weak wooden bridge you spoke of a few weeks ago? Have we reached the end of this process? Are we beginning a new stage?

[Velasquez] The people's will is marking the beginning of a new stage. A new parliament will be installed on 23 January. Judging from the composition of this new parliament, as reported by national surveys, it will be different from what it has been over the past 30 years.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Velasquez] Yes, because a new agreement is likely. When I say agreement, I agree with one of the candidates who today said we are not dealing with a distribution of bureaucratic positions. No, never. That would be absurd. That would only be negative. When I say agreement, I mean there is a new country, which has been growing up in these 30 years, a country with new social demands, new views of political life, new social behavior. When I say agreement, I am taking into consideration that the 29 states have grown up, that they make up a panorama completely different from the one I saw 30 years ago. In each of the regions, east, west, center, there is economic development and very a valuable nuclei of professionals, which must be taken into consideration. The residents' sense of participation, translated into the important role of mayors, and the participation of the people of neighborhoods and outskirts, are all part of a country that demands to be taken into consideration. So is a state that can meet the demands of the new Venezuelan society only through large-scale measures. This is the new agreement.

[Reporter] Mr. President, what invitation would you extend to the presidential candidates, political party members, and the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] to remain calm and heed the CSE's official decisions?

[Velasquez] The duty is to keep our eyes open and remain calm. Remain vigilant so the slightest fraud attempt cannot take place anywhere. Remain vigilant to make sure persons of voting age can exert their right to vote. It is the

community's duty to avoid any violent excess, any disturbance that might preclude the vote count to benefit some of the parties.

[Reporter] Can we say that the destabilizing factors are no longer present in the country?

[Velasquez] They are just beginning because social maladjustment is one of the factors that determine destabilization. It is essential for the government to emerge from these elections, both the Legislative Branch and the Executive Branch, to take into consideration attaining stable economic and social development. Good morning.

### President, OAS Mission Chief on Electoral Process

*PA0512020793 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0011 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[Report by Ligia Moreno; from "The News" newscast]

[Text] The first impressions of the OAS observers who are in our country to witness the elections are: confidence in the democratic renewal of the Legislative and Executive Branches; confidence in the trustworthiness of the voting process; and confidence in Venezuelans' civic conduct. Undoubtedly, Venezuela is one of the leading Latin American democracies, as it has upheld its democratic system for a long time.

The OAS observers mission consists of 30 people who have been assigned to different areas of the country to closely observe the ongoing Venezuelan electoral process. The Venezuelan electoral process will surely be an example to the world because we will exercise the right to vote, which is one of the privileges of the system under which Venezuelans have chosen to live.

According to the OAS observers, up to now they have seen a typical electoral process where the political parties have presented their government program to the voters. The OAS observers met with Venezuelan President Ramon J. Velasquez, who spotlighted the importance of the mission's presence in our country:

[Begin recording] [Velasquez] In addition to being the beginning of the eighth constitutional term, it is the beginning of a new era in Venezuela. We will elect new figures from all of the country's regions to parliament. This will allow us to find the path to resolve our social problems—I place a great emphasis on social issues—economic problems, and the lack of understanding among the country's sectors. We have to start a new life and this is the importance of tomorrow's elections.

[John Graham, OAS observers mission chief] The mission members are hoping that tomorrow will be a very peaceful day and that people will massively attend the elections, which are so important. Our mission will do its best to closely observe the process in several parts of the country. [end recording]

In any case, the world's eyes are watching Venezuela, where Venezuelans will cast their votes and decide the country's democratic future. It is everyone's responsibility to vote.

### Defense Minister Comments on Election Process

*PA0512181393 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 1652 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[Report by Zabrina Zambrano at the Venezuelan Defense Ministry in Caracas; from the "Decision 93" election coverage program—live]

[Text] We are currently at the Defense Ministry building where a meeting between the Radio Caracas Television directors and Defense Minister Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon has just concluded.

In a few minutes this stations' directors will provide statements to the "Decision 93" program in order for the public to learn more about the special elections program Radio Caracas Television is currently transmitting.

Standing beside me is Dr. Armando Enrique Guia who is supervising our "Decision 93' program for all of Venezuela. Dr. Diaz will be commenting on the 1993 elections.

[Guia] The most important message I can relay at this time is to call on all voters to vote. They must exercise their rights, carry out their constitutional duty and vote.

[Zambrano] What was the objective of this meeting with the defense minister?

[Guia] It was just a courtesy call. The minister invited us to learn more about the organization behind the Republic Plan which is what we were doing until not long ago.

[Begin Radames Munoz recording] The Armed Forces are doing exactly what was established for this institution as part of the Republic Plan. We have concluded distributing all materials to the various tables. All materials were safeguarded and properly distributed. Everything was verified. Safety throughout the country is under control and the everything is normal. The Armed Forces cannot get involved in political activities which are the sole responsibility of the Supreme Electoral Council. [end recording]

### Meets With Radical Cause Candidate

*PA0512013693 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[From "The News" newscast]

[Text] Defense Minister Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon met with Radical Cause candidate Andres Velasquez today. The meeting served as a means to assure respect for the electoral results and eliminate any possibility of disrespect for the decision that the Venezuelan people will make tomorrow.

Radical Cause presidential candidate Andres Velasquez and several individuals linked to his campaign spoke with

the defense minister about the electoral process during a meeting at 1000 today at Fort Tiuna, where Vice Admiral Munoz Leon's office is.

[Begin recording] [Munoz] I must state that it was a very positive meeting. He spoke to us about his government program and his relations with the Armed Forces in very clear and cordial terms. We had the opportunity to express certain concerns and to show him what we are doing for the Republic Plan.

[Velasquez] The topics we discussed included everything dealing with the electoral process, the Armed Forces' participation, and the organization and effectiveness of the Republic Plan. We had the opportunity to see the Armed Forces information center, which is connected with the Supreme Electoral Council. We also reiterated our confidence in our Armed Forces, knowing that there will be respect for the electoral results. We will be directly connected with them for tomorrow's electoral results. [end recording]

In this way, a few hours before the elections in our country, Defense Minister Munoz Leon finished his meetings with the various candidates so that there will be respect for the official results issued by the Supreme Electoral Council and so that there will be no projections ahead of time.

### General Reports 'Republic Plan' Working 'as Scheduled'

*PA0512142493 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 1331 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[Interview with General Eduardo Antonio Lobo Parra, commander of Lara State military garrison, by reporter Jose Luis Yepes, in Barquisimeto, Lara State; from the "Decision 93" election coverage program—live]

[Text] [Yepes] We are in Barquisimeto interviewing General Eduardo Antonio Lobo Parra, who is the commander of the Lara State military garrison and the officer in charge of the Republic Plan in the region. He has under his command over 5,000 men who are guarding the 1,522 voting tables distributed in 537 voting centers. General, how are the elections and, more specifically, the Republic Plan progressing in Lara State?

[Lobo Parra] So far, everything is moving with absolute normalcy. Everything planned under Operation Republic [as heard] is being conducted as scheduled. The elections began at exactly 0600 [1000 GMT] in the eight municipalities in the interior of the state, where all the voting tables were installed. The elections began a little later in Iribarren municipality, but everything is moving without any problems. We hope that everything will continue as scheduled throughout the rest of the day.

[Yepes] General, how about the behavior of the people and compliance with the norms and regulations that you have issued as officer in charge of the Republic Plan?

[Lobo Parra] I must admit it has been great. Last night, we patrolled the entire city and the entire state, and no one was arrested for violating any of the measures.

[Yepes] Thank you Gen. Lobo Parra.

### 'Calm Reigns'

*PA0512222393 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[News conference by Manuel Andara Clavier, Armed Forces inspector general, with unidentified reporters at the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) office in Caracas; from the "Decision 93" election coverage program; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] [Andara] ....military High Command members are here. The minister is at his office to meet with a number of international observers. I came to say that this has been a genuinely marvelous and special election. So far, there has been no incident that could be considered serious at any military garrison. Calm reigns. Armed Forces troops are working—as they should—to fully comply with their duties. Soldiers are assisting in the process.

I think this is a good development and good Christmas present for all Venezuelans: to give ourselves a president, really give ourselves.... [pauses] and maintain a democratic system, a government system. The Armed Forces' loyalty—especially that of the High Command—was doubted on many occasions. With this visit we want to show that we are complying with our duty, fulfilling it, and we will continue to do so until the end.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] the Armed Forces' role in this process. You have shown your support for institutionality and our democratic system.

[Andara] Correct. This is our mission, the Armed Forces mission. This was our mission for the three months as we worked on the Republic Plan, and this is the only way to achieve our goal: a democratic system to guarantee liberty for all Venezuelans. Venezuelans have shown genuine maturity everywhere on this marvelous day.

[Reporter] When will the Armed Forces start transporting the electoral certificates, which will be the basis for the first bulletin that the Supreme Electoral Council will issue?

[Andara] Certain voting tables and collection centers for envelope No. 1 in the countryside could be closing anytime. Air Force planes, as well as private and commercial ones, are ready to transport them to Maiquetia Airport and, if needed, to La Carlota Airport, which could also operate in the evening. Do not be alarmed if the latter is the case, because one, two, or three helicopters or planes could be doing that. Everything depends on the situation, but we are ready to do this as soon as the voting tables close. I think that a large number of electoral certificates could be arriving at the CSE at 1700 or 1800.

[Reporter] There was a report on an incident [words indistinct] involving machine-gun fire at a voting table.

[Andara] That was not the case. It was a minor incident. It was perhaps an attempt to harass a post in the area, but this was not a major incident. This occurred between 0100 and 0400. A Navy infantry unit in the area repelled this action.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Andara] That was an incident at the border area. No one was wounded; there was nothing to regret. Everything is proceeding normally.

[Reporter] There is absolute normalcy in the country?

[Andara] Total normalcy in the country. There are minor incidents in the capital and countryside but nothing major.

[Reporter] How long will the troops be on the streets?

[Andara] Until the Republic Plan is completed.

### Prosecutor General on Reports of 'Electoral Corruption'

*PA0612013993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2309 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[Text] Caracas, 5 Dec (EFE)—Venezuelan Prosecutor General Ramon Escovar confirmed today that he had received reports on isolated incidents of "electoral corruption" but did not evaluate their impact on the final election results.

Escovar said that what annoyed him the most during this process, which he said had been exemplary, were the reports that people had not been allowed to watch the vote-counting process at several tables. He added that his office had also received reports that several voting centers had closed their doors at 1600 and the people, who were waiting in line to vote, had not been allowed to vote. Escovar said he had ordered an investigation of those irregularities but did not reveal the measures to be taken if the reports are confirmed or if people will have to vote again at several tables.

The prosecutor general asked the political parties not to advance information on their forecasts and projections until the Supreme Electoral Council officially presents the first public tally and authorizes the free circulation of information prepared by other organizations. Escovar also asked the candidates' followers to avoid going to the streets to celebrate or protest the election results.

### Private TV Stations Report Caldera Winner

*PA0612005293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2334 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[Text] Caracas, 5 Dec (EFE)—After the electoral authorities authorized the release of unofficial results at 1920 (2320 GMT), the three main private television stations reported that former Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera is the winner of today's elections.

Caldera, 77, is the candidate of 17 small political forces with a heterogeneous ideology, ranging from rightist to communist.

The voting trends obtained in surveys by the television stations differ regarding the three other main candidates, Oswaldo Alvarez Paz of the Social Christian Party, Copei; Andres Velasquez of Radical Cause; and Claudio Fermin of Democratic Action.

The projections in percentages are:

| | Venevision | Radio Caracas Television | Televen |
|---|---|---|---|
| Caldera | 31.3 | 30.0 | 35.0 |
| Velasquez | 23.4 | 23.5 | 23.0 |
| Fermin | 21.9 | 23.5 | 17.0 |
| Alvarez Paz | 21.4 | 20.5 | 25.0 |

### Unofficial Sources Say Caldera Consolidated Victory

*PA0512223793 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2148 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[Text] Caracas, 5 Dec (DPA)—Former President Rafael Caldera, 77, has consolidated his victory in the presidential elections which were held in Venezuela on Sunday, several unofficial sources told DPA.

The veteran political leader's reelection has reportedly occurred with nearly 30 percent of the votes, according to projections provided by various media and political parties, which are legally banned from releasing these results before 2100 (local) when the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) is scheduled to announce its first official result.

Caldera, who was president between 1969 and 1974, is followed by, according to coinciding reports, labor leader Andres Velasquez, of the Radical Cause Party, by a difference of between 6 percent and 8 percent of the votes. This 40-year-old leader has reportedly won in Caracas and areas close to the capital.

Unofficial reports do not clearly show Oswaldo Alvarez Paz, of the Social Christian Party, Copei, in third place due to the increasing number of votes received by the former mayor of Caracas, Claudio Fermin, of the social democratic Democratic Action (AD), who was given a fourth place by preelectoral surveys.

Even though projections for the vote in parliament are smaller, Caldera's National Convergence has also reportedly obtained first place, followed by Radical Cause, Copei, and AD.

### Radical Cause Criticizes Other Candidates' Victory Claims

*PA0512225293 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2205 GMT 5 Dec 93*

[Text] Caracas, 5 Dec (NOTIMEX)—The leftist Radical Cause Party has expressed its discontent because several candidates have proclaimed their victory in the presidential elections even before the voting has ended. It has stated that this causes concern and uncertainty.

"This action is a violation of the Electoral Code, which prohibits political parties from issuing statements in this regard and mandates to the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] the function of announcing the results," the Radical Cause has stated in a communique.

Anna Brumlik de Maneiro, international relations secretary for Radical Cause, said that added to the tensions in the country during the electoral campaign, these actions "endanger the respect for the Venezuelan people's will, as expressed in the ballot boxes."

Brumlik de Maneiro also criticized the attitude of certain media which have begun to release unofficial figures even though CSE President Isodoro Morales Paul had asked the press to refrain from advancing results.

The Venevision Television Network revealed that according to an exit poll, former President Rafael Caldera won today's presidential elections with 29.5 percent of the vote. Caldera was nominated by 17 political organizations of various leanings and was considered by polls prior to the elections to be the candidate with the greatest possibilities of winning. According to Venevision, Social Democrat Claudio Fermin is in second place with 22.9 percent.

Nevertheless, in Caldera's office no member of the political coalition advanced any figures, so as not to violate the Electoral Code.

Close to 10 million Venezuelans went to the polls today to elect the president and half of the Chamber of Deputies and Senate. The authorities have reported complete calm and no serious incidents.

### CSE Delays Official Election Bulletin

*PA0612075893 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 0710 GMT 6 Dec 93*

["Message to the Nation" by the Supreme Electoral Council on 5 December; read by CSE Secretary General (Sobeya Mejias Lizet)—recorded]

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] addresses the nation to report that due to developments [novedades] in the electoral process concerning the totaling of the votes for the election of the president of the Republic and due to the delay in the counting of the voting tables, up to this time, 0300, it has only received 1,800 electoral certificates, which are not representative of the totality of the country's states. For this reason, it has been decided that it will not issue the corresponding official bulletin until the norms approved by the council for the release of the official bulletins have been fulfilled, in other words, that the bulletin be based on more than 3,000 electoral certificates and that they be representative of at least 15 states of the Republic, including the Federal District.

We reiterate that the CSE is able to immediately process all of the electoral certificates that the Seventh Republic Plan delivers to the CSE headquarters. Good night.

### National Convergence's Caldera Claims Victory

*PA0612015793 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 0010 GMT 6 Dec 93*

[Statement by Rafael Caldera, National Convergence presidential candidate, at the campaign headquarters in Caracas; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] ....In today's beautiful civic activity, which raised the prestige of the Venezuelan fatherland in the eyes of our sister nations, the principal and most important struggle was waged by the Chiripero [cockroach leader, reference to Caldera as leader of small, hardy, opposition parties that support his candidacy] [crowd cheers, chants slogans].

I did not want to speak before the confirmation of figures, which all television stations are reporting because there could be changes in the order between the second, third, and fourth places; there is, however, a clear and defined difference [crowd cheers] that places a great responsibility on my shoulders.

Moments ago, AD [Democratic Action] candidate Claudio Fermin had the honesty to acknowledge my victory. [crowd cheers] This honesty obligates me to admit that in this difficult electoral campaign, which had very rough moments, moments when the level that should have been maintained dropped considerably, candidate Claudio Fermin acted like a democrat who deserves our consideration and respect. [crowd cheers]

The other two candidates have not yet acknowledged my victory; this is a sign of their immaturity. A responsible politician must have.... [crowd cheers] the courage to recognize the results of a battle that is unfavorable to him. [crowd cheers]

I have the authority to say this, because as a long-time politician, whenever I lost elections I never waited for formulas or the last bulletins of the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] to recognize my defeat. [cheers] When I lost the elections 10 years ago against Dr. Jaime Lusinchi, as soon as I was convinced that the victory was for my contender I immediately announced it, and I congratulated him and wished him good luck, which, unfortunately, he did not totally have in fulfilling his duties. [crowd shouts slogans and "Caldera! Caldera! Caldera!"]

Finally, those two (?presidential) hopefuls have learned a lesson, a very important lesson: To have a right to govern a country, one must be able to lose with honesty, integrity, and sincerity. [shouts]

In any event, my work now begins by again seeking harmony and understanding among Venezuelans. It is not a matter of seeking political pacts, the kind of which Venezuelan democracy is so tired. [cheers] It is a matter of seeking fundamental agreements, particularly with all sectors of civilian society in order to be able to face the difficult problems afflicting our country. Our country has a right to be happy but is still enduring difficulties and hardships. I am willing to work for a sincere national agreement, a national agreement based on the premise that democracy must be at the service of the people, that we must work for the people. [cheers]

Without announcing populist measures and without making false promises that can do more harm than good, I want people to feel that there is hope, that the new generations will have the opportunity of finding open doors and broader horizons to work for Venezuela's greatness. [cheers]

On this moving and memorable occasion, I want to clearly say that the Venezuelan people have elected me as their president today, but the government will continue to be in the hands and under the wise direction of President Ramon Jose Velasquez until the formal transition takes place. The ceremony will not be like a luxurious coronation; it will be an austere, serious, and responsible ceremony to mark the beginning of a government of austerity in Venezuela. [cheers]

I have offered President Velasquez my and my work team's support and cooperation to ease the problems of transition and to help solve the very serious problems the next government will have to confront. As of right now, we will work intensely to find the right paths for our country. To execute the work I promised to accomplish, however, I need you to maintain your faith. I need the people's trust and confidence [applause, cheers] to be able to truly get Venezuela out of the situation in which it now stands due to the mistakes of the past years.

At this time, I want to call Venezuelans from all social sectors, regions, and ideological and political currents to understand that our main duty is Venezuela. For Venezuela's good, we have to join efforts, overlook our differences, and try to forget offenses and antagonism; this is the only way the country will be able to get back on the path from which it detoured due to the many nefarious events it experienced in the past.

I would also like to say the following: The most beautiful promotion advertisement during the electoral campaign was the one of a baby who, in baby talk, asked candidates to return the happiness.... [applause, cheers] to his father so that he could play with him. My goal is to return happiness and faith in the country to all Venezuelan homes. [applause, cheers] I, together with my wife, Alice, and my family, who have accompanied me throughout this experience, take the occasion to sincerely wish you a very merry Christmas and holidays and to tell you that next year will be a better one, despite all of the forecasts. [applause] I will search everywhere for the best people, and we will work hard and without respite to get the somber horizon to brighten up with the sun of the Venezuelan hope, the recollection of our glorious days, the example of our great men and women, and with Venezuela's exemplary actions in the most difficult moments of its history.

Dear friends, dear cockroaches of the cockroach [refers to Caldera supporters], the struggle has been hard and unequal, but at each step of the way I have found the basic response which is in the heart of the people.

I urge you all to wait until the end to sing the national anthem together. [crowd cheers] This was a rough struggle. I had generous supporters; they were not mercenaries but were people who contributed all their enthusiasm without asking for rewards. Our best reward will now be to make Venezuela happy. We will do that; we will try to do so with all our strength, all our energy, and all our determination. We will achieve that with the help of Divine Providence, who has accompanied us throughout this campaign. [crowd cheers, applauds]

The Venezuelan people have again won today the admiration of Latin America, the entire hemisphere, and the world. We will maintain its prestige held up high. We feel for the fatherland and love it very much; this is why we struggle and give ourselves entirely to it. [crowd cheers]

We will unite efforts to build a true democracy, not a corrupt and unjust democracy, but an honest democracy accompanied by social justice at the service of the legitimate interests of the community, a democracy that will stand as an example, guide, and encouragement for other peoples on this continent.

Thank you very much, dear cockroaches. [crowd cheers] Let's all sing the national anthem now. [Caldera leads crowd in singing anthem] Viva Venezuela! [crowd answers "Viva!" applauds]

### Opponents Ignore Caldera's Unofficial Victory

*PA0612014593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0002 GMT 6 Dec 93*

[Text] Caracas, 5 Dec (EFE)—Rafael Caldera's unofficial victory in today's presidential elections in Venezuela has not been recognized by his two main opponents, Oswaldo Alvarez Paz and Andres Velasquez.

As he left his campaign headquarters, Alvarez Paz of the Social Christian Party, Copei, did not recognize the trends reported by the three private television stations, arguing that the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] has yet to issue a bulletin on the results. "Certain personalities of other campaign headquarters came to ask us to recognize the victory, but we flatly rejected this request because those are not the figures we have," Velasquez of Radical Cause stated.

Velasquez said that he is only going to recognize the CSE figures, adding that there has been a violation of the agreement on not issuing unofficial figures until after the first official bulletin is released.

The television stations issued their projections after they were publicly authorized by the CSE, but Velasquez insisted that this was not the agreement reached by the candidates, the government, the Armed Forces, and the electoral authorities.

### Official Copei Stand on Projections

*PA0612024493 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 0059 GMT 6 Dec 93*

["Official Stand" of Social Christian Party (Copei) as stated by Copei President Hilarion Cardozo; place not given; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] ....Republic. Thus, reports have been broadcast, but the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] has not yet seen the results of any electoral certificates. They did not refer to official results. They referred to polls conducted on the morning of 5 December among people leaving voting tables, one-third of whom refused to reply to the questions posed. These polls were conducted in urban areas, and 50

percent of the population had not yet voted when such polls were closed, and thus, these people were not included in them.

Third, their conclusions lack objectivity and we cannot accept them or use them as a basis to proclaim the president of the Republic. We deplore that the CSE changed the rules, which had been established for reporting electoral results and that it allowed the dissemination of results, which have generated great confusion.

Fourth, the data that is in our hands, which is not based on polls but on duplicates of electoral certificates, allow us to claim with absolute seriousness—and this will be confirmed in a few days as soon as the official results are known—that the final and official results will differ from those that are now being announced.

Fifth, Copei reaffirms, as our presidential candidate Dr. Oswaldo Alvarez Paz already has, that we will undoubtedly recognize the official results as soon as they are announced by the CSE, regardless of what they happen to be.

Sixth, we urge party militants to remain at the voting tables to safeguard the people's will, which has been entrusted to our organization. We urge everyone to remain calm and wait for, with firm, civic resolve, the official results and the announcement that our national leadership and our candidate will make.

### Democratic Action's Fermin Recognizes Caldera Victory

*PA0612025093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0028 GMT 6 Dec 93*

[Text] Caracas, 5 Dec (EFE)—Democratic Action (AD) candidate Claudio Fermin has recognized Rafael Caldera's victory in the presidential elections in Venezuela today. "I ask God to guide our president, Rafael Caldera," Fermin said during a television program.

Fermin, 43, second in some projections and third in others, added that he would be the first interested in seeing the reversal of the trends reflected by the surveys aired by the country's three private television stations. Even though deep down Fermin does not want to lose hope that the unofficial results will turn in his favor, he added that it "is impossible" that the trends will change.

Fermin was the first of the four main candidates to recognize Caldera's unofficial victory. The other two opponents, Oswaldo Alvarez Paz of the Social Christian Party, Copei, and Andres Velasquez of Radical Cause, have refused to recognize Caldera and have said they will wait for the official results "until the last bulletin."

### Defense Minister Remarks on Elections

*PA0612050793 Caracas Radio Caracas Television Network in Spanish 0333 GMT 6 Dec 93*

[Interview with Defense Minister Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon by Sergio Novelli at the Defense Ministry headquarters in Fort Tiuna; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Novelli] We are now at the Defense Ministry headquarters, where the entire top military command has gathered. Defense Minister Radames Munoz Leon will tell us about the election process and the work done by the Republic Plan.

[Munoz] Good evening, and good evening to all Radio Caracas Television viewers. Thank you for this opportunity, Sergio. I believe the job done by the Armed Forces has been witnessed by the Venezuelan people. The Venezuelan people have seen it through the actions performed by our men. Each one of our soldiers on the streets has shown his duty to serve his people. There were many difficult moments before the elections were held. We have weathered all types of rumors and speculations, but we are finally here. We thank the Venezuelan people for their gesture, their civic spirit. We thank God that all has gone perfectly well.

I have to say that our real intentions to live in democracy and to share this desire with the Venezuelan people has been proven above everything else.

[Novelli] Former President Rafael Caldera has been mentioned as the eventual winner, but how can we say for sure that Rafael Caldera is the president-elect of Venezuela if the electoral certificates have not arrived yet? Some 15,000 electoral certificates were expected by this time, but only 250 or 300 electoral certificates have arrived. How can we say for sure that Rafael Caldera will be our next president?

[Munoz] The first thing we have to do is give credit to the media. The estimates given in the past, in the exit polls conducted by the different television stations and other networks, have been quite accurate. The media have practically announced the victory of Dr. Caldera. I hope that as in previous years this will be a reality because you have not failed in your predictions, and we must congratulate you for your efficiency in this regard. These are the things I often mentioned as being part of the technological progress we have in the country, which will prevent the Armed Forces from having so much participation in such a normal process in the democratic life of a country such as this.

[Novelli] How can you explain the fact that the 15,000 electoral certificates have not yet arrived?

[Munoz] As you have realized yourself as a voter, voting is quite complicated at this time. You must bear in mind the large ballots, the huge number of candidates. To top it all off, the Venezuelan population has increased, and the next elections [six- second break in reception] approximately how much it will take for a voting table in processing its 400 voters if they all showed up and the result was approximately 10 hours.

Perhaps at this time we should say that it has been done in record time, despite our estimates. This situation must be improved with technology in the future because we cannot have these situations involving the logistic support and excessive time to elect authorities in such a, let us say, provincial manner such as the one we have used to date.

[Novelli] When do you think all of the electoral certificates might arrive?

[Munoz] They will be here at midnight if there is no transportation problem. We have at this time approximately 13 airplanes again picking up electoral certificates and bringing them to Maiquetia Airport; therefore, I think that by midnight or the early morning hours the electoral certificates of envelope number one [sobre numero uno] will be in the hands of the Supreme Electoral Council. The process to process these comes now. This is also a long and somewhat slow process due to the large number of electoral certificates and voters. I think hard work awaits the CSE tonight, and it might issue its results tomorrow.

[Novelli] Regarding security, how do you see this process? Has there been any type of disorder in the country?

[Munoz] We can confirm that there have been less incidents than in a normal weekend in Caracas. That says much.

[Novelli] You met a few days ago with National Convergence candidate Rafael Caldera. What were the objectives of that meeting?

[Munoz] That was a very cordial visit in response to his invitation at his own house. In addition to speaking about some pleasant and cordial personal aspects, we spoke about the future of the Armed Forces, about some basic problems, the possibilities of improving their technology, of recovering some of their materiel, of executing a truly rational development plan, of resolving the social problems in the Armed Forces, the salaries—you know, the many aspects in which he was interested to continue being knowledgeable now that he is... [pauses] that he again has to occupy this post of Armed Forces commander in chief. I think it was a very fruitful conversation because it laid the foundations for speaking in the future, above all with regard to a number of situations with which we will have to deal.

[Novelli] Thank you, Defense Minister Vice Adm. Radames Munoz Leon. We have to definitely emphasize that the work of the Armed Forces and the Republic Plan has been vital and important for the development of this election process, not only with regard to the support to the media but also to all the citizens so that we could have a completely normal election process.

### Government Establishes Relations With South Africa

*PA0512030193 Paris AFP in Spanish 2158 GMT 3 Dec 93*

[Text] Caracas, 3 Dec (AFP)—The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry has announced in Caracas that Venezuela and South Africa have established diplomatic relations effective today.

A Venezuelan Foreign Ministry communique stated that the relations were established through the exchange of notes between their ambassadors to the United Nations, Adolfo Taylhardat and Jim Steward.

## Guyana

### Opposition Calls for Resignation of Foreign Minister

*FL0212233793 Bridgetown CANA in English 1938 GMT 2 Dec 93*

[Excerpt] Georgetown, Guyana, 2 Dec, CANA—The main parliamentary opposition group in Guyana, the People's National Congress [PNC], picketed the Foreign Affairs Ministry Thursday.

It called for the resignation of the foreign minister and the recall of the country's controversial ambassador designate to neighbouring Venezuela.

The party, which ruled Guyana for 28 consecutive years until October last year, wants the 14-month old Cheddi Jagan administration to withdraw Canadian-based Guyanese, Satyadev "Sash" Sawh from the Venezuelan capital.

Former Guyana ambassador to Cuba, Oscar Clarke, and former chief whip of the PNC, Jennifer Ferreira, carried placards demanding the resignation and recall.

An authorative source in the Foreign Ministry said foreign affairs minister, Clement Rohee, was likely to recall Sawh by early next week because of a prior conviction on two counts of forgery in Canada.

Sawh, 39, has been in the venezuelan capital more than a month and is yet to be accredited. [passage omitted]